Men-at-Arms

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Armies of the Italian Wars of Unification 1848–70 (1)

Piedmont and the Two Sicilies

Gabriele Esposito • Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava

GABRIELE ESPOSITO is a researcher into military history, specializing in uniformology. His interests range from the ancient Sumerians to modern post-colonial conflicts, but his main field of research is the military history of Latin America, especially in the 19th century. He has had books published by Osprey Publishing, Helion & Company, Winged Hussar Publishing and Partizan Press, and he is a regular contributor to specialist magazines such as ***Ancient Warfare***, ***Medieval Warfare***, ***Classic Arms & Militaria***, ***Guerres et Histoire***, ***History of War and Focus Storia***.

GIUSEPPE RAVA was born in Faenza in 1963, and took an interest in all things military from an early age. Entirely self-taught, Giuseppe has established himself as a leading military history artist, and is inspired by the works of the great military artists, such as Detaille, Meissonier, Rochling, Lady Butler, Ottenfeld and Angus McBride. He lives and works in Italy. For more on Giuseppe, please visit his website at www.g-rava.it

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Series editor Martin Windrow

ARMIES OF THE ITALIAN WARS OF UNIFICATION 1848–70 (1)

PIEDMONT & THE TWO SICILIES

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The process of Italian unification, commonly known as the *Risorgimento* or 'Resurgence', lasted in all from 1848 to 1870. While its core was a series of wars between the Italians and the Austrian (from 1867, Austro-Hungarian) Empire, there were major complicating factors: the varying political goals of regional rulers, and of the leaders of different patriotic movements. Three major wars were fought against Austria, known in Italy as the Independence Wars: the first in 1848–49, the second in 1859 and the third in 1866. Finally, under the monarchy and military leadership of Piedmont (the Kingdom of Sardinia, ruled by the Royal House of Savoy), Italy became a unified nation, having expelled the Austrians from most of the regions which they had occupied or controlled[1].

During the Napoleonic Wars, the patchwork of Italian regional states had been partially united by the conquering Napoleon for the first time, into two puppet kingdoms ruled by his relatives or delegates: the Kingdom of Italy in northern and central Italy, and the Kingdom of Naples in the south (both Sicily and the island of Sardinia remained independent, with support from the British Royal Navy). However, Napoleon's defeat saw Italy invaded by the Austrians, and the Congress of Vienna restored the regional states that had existed before 1797, most of which were either directly ruled or strongly influenced by Austria.

Victor Emmanuel II, King of Sardinia (Piedmont) from 1849, and first King of Italy from 1861. Together with Cavour, Mazzini and Garibaldi, this royal soldier is considered as one of the founding fathers of the Italian nation. His first act as king was being obliged to sign the Armistice of Vignale with the Austrians after the costly Piedmontese defeat at Novara on 23 March 1849; nevertheless, just 12 years later he would achieve the unification and independence of his country.

The Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia was governed by Austria from Milan and Venice (as were other northern territories, which would be freed only after World War I). The Duchy of Modena and Grand Duchy of Tuscany (which annexed the Duchy of Lucca in 1847) were both ruled by members of the Habsburg family, and so were only nominally independent. The Duchy of Parma, the Papal States and the Bourbon monarchy of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (the latter ruled from Naples) were all subject to strong Austrian influence. This left Piedmont (a.k.a. the Kingdom of Sardinia) as the only fully independent state. However, despite the conservatism of most Italian regional rulers, and Austria's efforts to suppress Italian nationalist sentiment, by 1815 Italy's intellectual

1 For clarity for English-speaking readers, throughout this text the political entity will be called Piedmont rather than the Kingdom of Sardinia, to avoid confusion with the actual island of Sardinia; thus we refer to the *Armata Sarda* as the Piedmontese Army. Also, personal names are Anglicized.

culture had completely changed since 1797. The educated classes had tasted some freedom from the twin yokes of the aristocracy and the Church, and, inspired by the principles of the French Revolution, liberal political ideals were spreading.

The road to 1848

The most influential revolutionary movement were the *Carbonari*, a secret organization initially formed in the south but soon active elsewhere, which pursued the parallel causes of constitutional government and independence. In 1820, risings against authoritarian monarchies in both Piedmont and the Two Sicilies forced short-lived constitutional concessions, but both were soon suppressed with the help of Austrian bayonets.

In 1830, *Carbonari* leaders such as Giuseppe Mazzini were encouraged anew by the July Revolution in France, and by the new King Louis-Philippe's promise to intervene if Austria again moved to crush Italian aspirations. Duke Francis IV of Modena initially seemed to support the reform movement in his territory, cynically hoping to exploit the turmoil to expand his dominion. Risings also occurred in the Duchy of Parma and the Papal States, most notably in Bologna, Forlì, Ravenna, Imola, Ferrara, Pesaro and Urbino. The revolutionaries adopted the *tricolore* flag of the old Cisalpine Republic, and planned a new confederation of 'United Italian Provinces'. However, Pope Gregory XVI called in Austrian military help, and the patriots were soon abandoned by both the Duke of Modena and King Louis-Philippe. The former reconquered his duchy with the help of Austrian troops, and, after Louis-Philippe had been threatened by the Austrian Chancellor Metternich, in 1831 an Austrian army marched through Italy, crushing the revolutionary groups. Unbowed, that summer Mazzini founded the political movement known as 'Young Italy', which soon became a driving force.

Ferdinand II, King of the Two Sicilies from 1830 to 1859, portrayed here as a senior officer of the Neapolitan line cavalry Lancers (for the colours of this uniform, compare with Plate H4). During the first years of his reign, the young Bourbon king was able to reorganize and transform the Neapolitan Army into an efficient military organization thanks to a series of intelligent reforms, but as the years passed he began to neglect it. In 1859–60, Ferdinand's son, Francis I, tried to update its weapons, equipment and uniforms, but this effort was too late to save his throne in the confrontation with the more modern forces of Piedmont.

By 1848 – 'The Year of Revolutions' in many European states, including Austria – two major figures in Italian politics were King Charles Albert of Piedmont

Map showing the Italian states in 1847, including the Duchy of Lucca (which was annexed by Tuscany in that year). Most of the important battles of the *Risorgimento* were fought near major cities:

First War, 1848–49: **Goito (north of Mantua); Peschiera (west of Verona); Pastrengo (north-west of Verona); Vicenza (west-north-west of Venice); Cornuda (north-west of Venice); Custoza (south-west of Verona); Bologna; Messina (Sicily); Novara (west of Milan); Brescia; Genoa; Palermo (Sicily); Livorno; Ancona; Rome; Venice.**

Second War (1859–61): **Magenta (west of Milan); Solferino (north of Mantua); Calatafimi (north-east of Marsala, Sicily); Volturno River (north of Naples); Gaeta.**

Third War (1866): **Custoza (south-west of Verona); Lissa Island (off Dalmatian coast). (Map by JB Illustrations)**

(who as a young prince had been sympathetic to the 1820 constitutional uprising) and Pope Pius IX. The king was considered by many patriots as the perfect champion for the cause of Italian unification, but other regional rulers were suspicious of his ambitions and relatively liberal policies, while important patriot leaders such as Mazzini and Garibaldi dreamed of an Italian republic rather than a unified kingdom under the House of Savoy. For these reasons, progress towards unification would long be hampered by tensions between diehard conservatives, moderate royalists and republicans. When elected Pope in 1846, Pius IX demonstrated a more modern sensibility than his predecessor by an amnesty for political prisoners in the Papal States, but he too was determined to retain his political powers, and would not countenance war with Catholic Austria.

On 5 January 1848, revolutionary disturbances began with civil disobedience in Lombardy, where citizens stopped smoking and playing the lottery in order to deny Austria the associated tax revenues. Within days, other uprisings broke out in Sicily and Naples, and within weeks came news of the fall of Metternich and the collapse of order in Vienna itself. The stage was set for the First Italian War of Independence.

CHRONOLOGY: FIRST WAR OF UNIFICATION, 1848–49

1848:

January–March Outbreak of revolution in Sicily; Neapolitan troops expelled except from fortress of Messina (where sporadic fighting continues January–August); secessionist Kingdom of Sicily proclaimed. In Naples, King Ferdinand II grudgingly accepts liberal constitution, followed by Duke Leopold II of Tuscany, King Charles Albert of Piedmont and Pope Pius IX. Dukes of Parma and Modena flee, replaced by provisional governments seeking annexation to Piedmont.

18–29 March News of uprising in Vienna prompts popular revolts in Milan and throughout Lombardy. Austrian commander Radetsky withdraws his demoralized troops into defensive 'Quadrilateral' between Verona, Legnano, Mantua and Peschiera. Provisional government proclaimed in Lombardy, and Venice proclaims Republic of San Marco.

Piedmont declares war on Austrian Empire, and volunteers converge from around the country. Bowing to popular unrest rather than truly sympathetic, rulers of Tuscany, Papal States and Two Sicilies send troops to support Piedmont (though Neapolitans are soon withdrawn). Piedmontese Army advances into Lombardy.

April Piedmontese Army forces crossing of Mincio river (Goito bridge, **8th**). Austrians defeat Lombard irregulars at Stenico **(20th)**. Piedmontese besiege Peschiera **(27th)**. Pope Pius withdraws support for Piedmont **(29th)**, but his general Durando disobeys him. Piedmontese defeat Austrians at Pastrengo **(30th)**.

May Austrians defeat Piedmontese at Santa Lucia, near Verona **(6th)**. Venetians and Papal troops under Durando are defeated at Cornuda **(8th–9th)**, but Durando holds Vicenza **(23rd)**. Mainly Tuscan patriot force holds up Radetsky at Curtatone and Montanara **(29th)**, thus screening moves by Piedmontese, who defeat him at Goito **(30th)**, and also take Peschiera.

June Piedmontese fail to support Durando in Vicenza, which falls after Austrian victory at Monte Berico **(10th)**.

July Piedmontese Bersaglieri distinguish themselves at Governolo **(18th)**. Radetsky's offensive pushes back overstretched Italian line on Mincio river **(22nd)**. Italians forced to retreat after battle of Custoza **(24th–27th)**, and are pursued into Milan.

August Piedmontese conclude truce with Radetsky despite Milanese protests, and begin withdrawal from Lombardy **(5th/6th)**, ending their hostilities by **Armistice of Salasco (9th)**; Austrians re-occupy Lombardy. Austrian offensive against 'Papal Legations' in north of Papal States, but Bologna drives invaders out **(9th)**. Austrians defeat patriots in Modena and Parma and restore ducal regimes. Piedmontese withdraw military support from Republic of San Marco, partly replaced by Guglielmo Pepe's Neapolitan troops; Austrians re-occupy whole territory except city of Venice. Independent rebel leader Giuseppe Garibaldi, with 1,000 volunteers in service of Milan, defeats small Austrian force at Luino **(15th)** before being forced to withdraw over border into Switzerland.

September King Ferdinand II of the Two Sicilies sends Neapolitan army to recapture city of Messina from Sicilian rebels **(3rd–7th**); after bloody fighting, truce signed **(18th)**.

24 November In face of popular uprising, Pope Pius leaves Rome for Gaeta, from where he will request help from Catholic powers (Two Sicilies, Austria, France and Spain) to reinstate him.

1849:

9 February Proclamation of Roman Republic.

March Piedmontese parliament votes to resume hostilities against Austrians (1st). Piedmontese Gen Ramorino disobeys order to hold Cava, allowing Radetsky to advance **(20th)**; part of Austrian army is delayed on the Sforzesca **(21st)**, but after being routed at Mortara the Piedmontese retreat on Novara. There, 45,000 Piedmontese are decisively defeated by 70,000 Austrians in costly, see-saw battle **(23rd)**. King Charles Albert of Piedmont abdicates in favour of his son Victor Emmanuel, who signs Armistice of Vignale with Radetsky **(24th)**. Austrians crush Lombard rebels, and restore Duke of Parma and Grand Duke of Tuscany to power.

April–July Genoa rejects Armistice, but city is sacked by Piedmontese troops **(5–11 April)**. In Sicily, King Ferdinand's Neapolitan troops resume hostilities and capture Catania **(7 April)** and Palermo **(14 May)**, bringing whole island under his control. Bologna falls to Austrians **(16 May)**.

The Roman Republic is defended by ex-Papal troops, National Guards and volunteers including Lombards, Piedmontese and Garibaldi's Italian Legion. It is threatened by Austrians from the north, a French landing force from the north-west and Neapolitans from the south. First French attack is driven off **(30 April)**, and not repeated for a month. After Garibaldi defeats Neapolitans at Palestrina **(9 May)**, they withdraw completely. Austrians lay siege to Ancona **(25 May)**. Spain lands 9,000 troops, who invade Umbria. The greatly reinforced French capture dominant postions on Gianicolo Hill **(3 June)**, and, alternating with intense bombardments, they storm the city in two stages **(20 & 30 June)**. Meanwhile, Ancona falls to Austrians **(21 June)**. Rome surrenders to French **(2 July)**.

May–August Venice, defended by troops under Guglielmo Pepe and Daniele Manin, holds out against Austrian siege until forced to surrender **(22 August)**. **End of First War of Unification**.

THE PIEDMONTESE ARMY

The Piedmontese Army was the main military driving force of the *Risorgimento*, being the only one in Italy with levels of professionalism comparable to the major European armies. Under sweeping reforms introduced by King Charles Albert (1831–49) in 1832, it adopted a mixed system of recruitment based on both French and Prussian models: around a core of 16,000 professional soldiers serving for eight years, the army also included a levy of 8,000 provincial conscripts called up to serve for just 14 months. However, despite good performances during the early months, the First War of Unification (1848–49) ended in devastating defeat.

During the ten years following the disaster of Novara, the army acquired more combat experience (and King Victor Emmanuel important foreign allies) through the kingdom's participation in the Crimean War. Later improvements included increasing the period of service for conscripts to 4–6 years depending on branch of service; total strength was increased to 75,000, and the light infantry and light cavalry were expanded. Finally, the victorious Second War of Unification in 1859, in alliance with France, led to the annexation of the Central Italian League and the conquest of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and the birth in May 1861 of a unified Italian Army, which was the direct heir to the traditions of the Piedmontese Army. However, this faced both a decade of counter-guerrilla warfare in the south before national unity was finally achieved, and a sharp lesson when Piedmont opportunistically sided with Prussia against Austria in 1866.

Grenadier, Guard Bde, Piedmontese Army, 1860. Immediately before the unification of the armies of Piedmont and the Central Italian League, the former had 6 grenadier regiments, of which 2 formed the Guard Brigade. The line grenadiers wore the same dark blue tunics, with black collars and cuff flaps and red piping, as the rest of the line, while the Guard units had red collars with added silver braid, red cuff flaps and cuff piping, as illustrated. The dark blue kepi has a red pompon and side piping, a silver lace cockade-loop and a regimentally numbered silver flaming grenade. The grey trousers have a red side-stripe; the belts and musket sling are white, the buckle brass with a grenade badge.

ORGANIZATION:

Line infantry, 1839–49

On 4 May 1839, the Piedmontese infantry was structured in 10 brigades: the *Brigata Guardie* or Guard Bde, plus 9 line brigades named Savoia, Piemonte, Aosta, Cuneo, La Regina, Casale, Pinerolo, Savona and Acqui. The Guard Bde consisted of 1 regiment each of grenadiers and *cacciatori* (chasseurs – light infantry), each regiment having 2 battalions of grenadiers and 1 of light infantry, of 4 companies each. The line brigades each had 2 regiments, for a total of 18 regiments. Each regiment had 3 battalions: the 1st and 2nd with a company of grenadiers and 3 of fusiliers, the 3rd with 4 companies of chasseurs, each company numbering 250 men. In case of mobilization for war, a 4th Bn with 4 companies of fusiliers was added to each regiment.

Upon the outbreak of war in 1848 these 4th Bns were soon formed, and were later sent to Lombardy and the Duchies of Modena and Parma to train volunteer units. After some time, 12 of these 18 'depot' battalions were assembled to form 4 new Provisional line regiments grouped into 2 new brigades; the other 6 battalions remained in Lombardy until the end of the war.

Following the Armistice of Salasco in August 1848, when the Piedmontese withdrew from Lombardy, the infantry was completely reorganized. Two reserve battalions were raised for

(Left to right:) captain, lieutenant and second lieutenant of Piedmontese line infantry, 1860; ranks are indicated by silver lace around the top of the dark blue kepi; apart from the Italian cockade all its other decorations are also silver. The dark blue tunic has black collar and cuff flaps, and red piping to the collar, front, cuff flaps and cuffs. The epaulettes are silver; the silver brocade belt has a gilt buckle bearing the cross of Savoy; the sash is azure blue, and the trousers are light grey with a red side-stripe.

each line regiment; the first of these had to be combat-ready and was formed of the best recruits, while the 'second line' battalion fulfilled internal security or auxiliary functions. Milanese units which had accompanied the Piedmontese retreat were disbanded at the beginning of September and used to form 12 new line battalions. Initially, 4 of the original Lombard units were excluded from this reorganization: the *Legione Manara*, *Cacciatori Valtellinesi*, *Compagnia volontari Bergamaschi* and *Volontari Tridentini*. The 12 Lombard battalions were used to create 4 new regiments, integrated into the Piedmontese line as the 19th–22nd Inf Regts. Of the last 4 autonomous Lombard units, the Manara Legion was eventually disbanded while the others were used to form new battalions of Bersaglieri (see below).

On 14 October 1848, the Guard Bde's regiments were reorganized, the grenadiers with 2 battalions each and the chasseurs with 4. On 16 October, 4 new Provisional regiments were raised from 12 of the 'first line' reserve battalions, and on 27 October, all line infantry companies were reduced from 250 to 180 men. On 11 November, a new 23rd Inf Regt was formed with 4 battalions: the 1st & 2nd Bns composed of volunteers from Parma and Modena respectively, and the 3rd & 4th of new Piedmontese recruits. On 6 February 1849, all the original 18 line infantry regiments re-formed their 4th Bns, and three days later another 5 new Provisional regiments were formed, bringing the total number of these to 9. One of these new regiments was formed from the 4 reserve battalions of the Guard Bde's 2 grenadier regiments.

On 11 March 1849, the line infantry was again totally reorganized. The 19th & 20th Inf Regts formed the new 1st Lombard Bde, and the 21st & 22nd the 2nd Lombard Bde, these being combined in a new Lombard Division. The first 4 Provisional regiments were transformed into regulars, numbered 24th–27th. The Provisional regiment formed from the grenadiers of the Guard Bde became the 3rd Grenadier Regt of the Guard, while the 5th & 6th Provisional regiments became the new 28th & 29th Inf Regts; these 3 regiments were grouped together in a Provisional Reserve Division. The 7th & 8th Provisional regiments became the new 30th & 31st Inf Regts; the 4th Bns of the original 18 line regiments were now used to form 6 new 3-battalion regiments numbered 32nd–37th.

Line infantry, 1849–59

After the end of the First War in August 1849, all the wartime-formed units were disbanded, and the infantry re-adopted its pre-war organization: 18 line regiments paired in 9 brigades, plus the 3 Guard regiments. On 12 October 1849, the line regiments were reduced to 3 active battalions, each of 6 companies: 1 elite, 4 line and 1 depot. On 20 April 1850, the Guard Bde was disbanded, being replaced by a new

Grenadier Bde of 2 regiments, while its chasseur regiment became the independent *Cacciatori di Sardegna*. On 19 March 1852, the latter was once more absorbed into the Grenadier Bde. By the same decree, each battalion of a line regiment was now to comprise just 4 active companies. During the spring of 1859, shortly before the outbreak of the Second War, 2 depot companies were added to each line regiment; these were soon increased to 4, forming a depot battalion.

Line infantry from 1859

Victory in the Second War brought the annexation of Lombardy, and the Piedmontese infantry was expanded by the formation of 6 new 2-regiment brigades: Granatieri di Lombardia, Brescia, Cremona, Como, Bergamo and Pavia. On 7 September 1859 the volunteer corps *Cacciatori delle Alpi* was disbanded, its men forming a new brigade later named Alpi.

On 25 March 1860, following the annexation of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, the Papal Legations and the Duchies of Parma and Modena, the forces of this Central Italian League were absorbed into the Piedmontese Army. The infantry was thus augmented by 11 new brigades: Pisa, Siena, Livorno, Pistoia, Ravenna, Bologna, Modena, Forlì, Reggio, Ferrara and Parma. The internal composition of the new regiments was quite varied, many being undermanned; consequently it was ordered that all new regiments which had only 2 battalions were to form a 3rd (each battalion having 5 or 6 companies).

After the campaign of 1860, which led to the conquest of southern Italy, all the infantry regiments that had 4 battalions ceded one of them in order to form 6 new infantry brigades: Granatieri di Napoli, Umbria, Marche, Abruzzi, Calabria and Sicilia. When the unified Italian Army was officially formed on 4 May 1861 it inherited this infantry organization of 34 brigades (31 of infantry and 3 of grenadiers), with 68 regiments (62 of infantry and 6 of grenadiers).

Officer and soldiers of the *Bersaglieri* in 1866, at the time of the Third War of Unification; compare with Plates B3 and C3. This corps became one of the symbols of the *Risorgimento*, because it distinguished itself in all the campaigns fought by Piedmont/Italy from 1848 onwards, and Bersaglieri were the first Italian soldiers to enter the walls of Rome in 1870 after the famous assault on the Porta Pia. On campaign, the Bersaglieri used a more practical uniform, consisting of a dark blue single-breasted short jacket with red facings which was usually worn with white summer trousers. Just visible in the right background is an infantryman wearing the new French-style *bonnet de police* introduced in 1860.

Bersaglieri

After it became clear that the Army needed a separate corps of light infantry, in 1836 the first company of the new Bersaglieri was formed by Alessandro La Marmora (though not without conservative opposition). The company soon demonstrated a high level of proficiency, thanks to innovative training and the issue of rifled carbines invented by their commander. The 2nd and 3rd Cos followed, to be grouped into a battalion in 1843, with a 4th Co added subsequently.

The outbreak of the First War saw the formation of a second 4-company battalion, and on 21 November 1848 a 3rd Bn was added in recognition of their excellent performance during the initial campaign. On 30 December, 4th & 5th Bns were raised, again with 4 companies. The Bersaglieri set an example of high mobility and marksmanship for all Italian light infantry; many of the units of volunteers raised during the First War adopted their fighting style and peculiarities of uniform, as did various regular units in other Italian armies.

After the First War, 6th–8th Bns were added, then 9th (March 1850) and 10th Bns (March 1852). With the outbreak of the Second War, each of these battalions was attached to one of

the line infantry brigades. In June 1859 the 11th Bn was formed, and the expansion continued after the Second War: the annexation of Lombardy added 5 new battalions, and the forces of the Central Italian League provided 11 more; in 1860, the corps thus comprised 27 battalions with 108 active companies, plus 14 depot companies. Following the conquest of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, on 24 January 1861 another 9 battalions were added together with 6 depot companies.

(From left to right:) *Lancieri di Firenze*, *Cavalleggeri di Alessandria*, *Cavalleggeri di Lodi* and *Genova Cavalleria*. In 1848 the Piedmontese cavalry only had units of the line, e.g. the *Genova Cavalleria* (compare with Plate B1 for colours). The light horse Cavalleggeri regiments were added in 1850, and those of *Lancieri* only in 1860. The uniform was generally the same throughout the cavalry; the most obvious difference was the use of the helmet by line regiments, and the kepi (in distinctive regimental colours) by the light horse and lancers. The line tunic also differed in having the collar in solid facing colour, and piping on the blue cuffs and cuff flaps.

Cavalry

Under the organization established on 18 November 1841, Piedmont's mounted arm comprised 1st–6th Line Regts, each with 6 squadrons. On 12 September 1848, 3 squadrons of Guides were added, to serve directly under the orders of the field corps commands. During the 1848 campaign, the cavalry operated together with two units formed by the provisional government of Milan: one regiment of dragoons and one of light horse. Following the Piedmontese retreat, these units were reorganized in September 1848, the dragoons with 6 squadrons and the light horse with 2 only; on 14 May 1849 the latter were disbanded, while the dragoons became the new Piedmontese 7th Line Cavalry.

Since the lack of light cavalry was judged to be one of the reasons for defeat in 1849, on 3 January 1850 the cavalry was reorganized into 4 line regiments and 5 of light horse, the Guides being disbanded. All 9 regiments had 1 depot and 4 active squadrons. Apart from the re-raising

of a single squadron of Guides on 10 April 1859, this organization remained unchanged throughout the Second War.

After the annexation of Lombardy, each cavalry regiment ceded one of its squadrons in order to form 3 new light horse regiments: the *Cavalleggeri di Milano*, *Cavalleggeri di Lodi* and *Cavalleggeri di Montebello*. For a brief period, October 1859–February 1860, the line regiments were renamed as *corazzieri* (cuirassiers).

On 23 February 1860, the squadron of Guides was transformed into a regiment. With the annexation of central Italy that March, 4 new cavalry regiments were added: the Firenze and Lucca light horse, the Vittorio Emanuele line cavalry and the *Ussari di Piacenza* hussars. On 6 June 1860 the creation of 6 regiments of *lancieri* (lancers) was ordered, by the transformation of 1 line and 5 light regiments. In total, the cavalry thus had 4 line regiments, 6 of lancers, 5 of light horse, 1 of hussars and 1 of Guides. Each now had 1 depot plus 6 active squadrons, except the Guides, which had a 7th active squadron.

Artillery

On 7 January 1845 the Piedmontese artillery was structured in 6 brigades with 2 batteries each. The 1st Bde was the only mounted unit, while the 6th had 2 positional batteries. In January 1848, 3 additional batteries were created: 1 each of mounted, field and positional artillery. That May, the 10th Field Bty was formed; this was later renumbered the 4th to replace the original unit which had been transformed into the 4th Positional Bty, and in March 1849, shortly before the final campaign of the First War, a new 10th Field Bty was raised. Four other Provisional batteries were also added: 1 from Modena, and 2 field and 1 positional battery from Lombardy. In addition, the Piedmontese artillery included a brigade of artillery workers and a 2-company pontoon unit.

On 1 October 1850 the artillery corps was reorganized into 3 regiments: the 1st Artillery Workers, 2nd Garrison Artillery and 3rd Field Artillery. The 1st Regt comprised a brigade of true artillery workers and another of pontoniers. The 2nd also had 2 brigades, each of 6 companies. The 3rd Regt had 1 mounted brigade with 2 batteries and 6 field brigades each with 3 batteries.

For the Second War, a third brigade and a new depot company were added to the Garrison Artillery, while the Field Artillery regiment was augmented with 4 new batteries. After the victorious 1859 campaign, the 3rd Field Artillery was reorganized into 1 mounted brigade with 2 batteries and 5 field brigades each with 3 active and 2 depot batteries. A new 4th Field Artillery Regt was formed, with 1 mounted and 6 field brigades.

This organization did not last long before the incorporation of the forces of the Central Italian League brought a major expansion. In June 1860 the arm was restructured into 8 regiments: the 1st Regt of Artillery Workers (still incorporating the pontoon unit); 2nd–4th Regts of Garrison Artillery (each of 3 brigades, having 4 companies each plus a depot company); 5th Regt of Field Artillery (1 mounted and 5 field brigades, each with 2 batteries); and 6th–8th Regts of Field Artillery (each with 6 field brigades of 2 batteries).

In January 1861 the artillery was reorganized into 9 regiments: the 1st Artillery Workers; 2nd–4th Garrison Artillery (each 3 brigades, with 6

Officer of Piedmontese light horse, 1859. The *Cavalleggeri* uniform displayed distinctive regimental colours on the kepi, collar patches (in the three-pointed French *'en accolade'* style) and piping on the pointed cuffs. In 1850, the regimental colours were as follows: *Cavalleggeri di Novara*, white; *di Aosta*, red; *di Saluzzo*, yellow; *del Monferrato*, crimson; and *di Alessandria*, orange. In 1859–60, five new regiments of light horse were added to the Piedmontese Army: *Cavalleggeri di Milano*, light blue; *di Lodi*, black; *di Montebello*, green; *di Firenze*, pink; and *di Lucca*, light orange. The *Cavalleggeri di Sardegna*, the police corps on the island of Sardinia, had this same uniform with light blue facings.

Officers and soldiers of the Lancer Regt *'Vittorio Emanuele'* in 1860, with yellow kepi, collar, pointed cuffs and double trouser stripes; lancer regiments had solid facing colours to differentiate them from the light horse. In 1860 the Piedmontese cavalry was reorganized, with the formation of six new regiments of lancers; as a result, the light horse regiments were reduced to five, and the distinctive colours changed as follows: *Cavalleggeri di Saluzzo*, yellow; *del Monferrato*, crimson; *di Alessandria*, orange; *di Lodi*, red; and *di Lucca*, white. The lancers wore: *Lancieri di Novara*, white; *di Aosta*, red; *di Milano*, crimson; *di Montebello*, green; *Vittorio Emanuele*, yellow; and *di Firenze*, orange. Note (right) the trooper's kepi top band and piping in white, short white epaulette fringes, yellow-piped and buttoned flaps on the tunic tails, and pouch and carbine belts.

active and 2 depot companies each); 5th–8th Field Artillery (each 8 brigades of 2 batteries each, except the 5th Regt, which had 1 mounted and 7 field brigades); and 9th Pontoon (2 brigades with 4 companies each).

Engineers and Train

On 22 April 1843 the Piedmontese *Zappatori* (engineers) were organized in a single battalion with 4 companies (1 of miners and 3 of sappers), plus a depot company added later. On 29 September 1848 the unit was expanded into a regiment of 2 battalions, each with an elite company of miners and 4 of sappers (reduced to 3 on 12 October 1849). In 1852 each battalion was increased to 5 companies. During the Second War the regiment was steadily enlarged, reaching 5 battalions with a total of 20 active and 2 depot companies. On 25 March 1860 the *Zappatori* were reorganized in 2 regiments, which were later structured with 3 battalions of 6 companies each, plus a depot of 3 companies.

Before the First War, the Train was organized in 5 divisions with 4 sections each. For the campaign of 1849 it was augmented to 14 divisions with a total of 56 sections. After the war the branch was initially reduced to 6 divisions, and on 12 December 1852 to just 4 companies. This weakness caused problems during the 1859 campaign, obliging the Army to employ civilian contractors for many of the Train's primary functions. As a result, on 4 March 1860 the Train was increased to 1

depot and 11 active companies, and on 24 January 1861 to 3 regiments each with 1 depot and 8 active companies.

Royal Household companies

The Piedmontese royal family had four small household units to protect the king and his court: the *Guardie del corpo* (Bodyguards), *Guardie Reali del Palazzo* (Royal Guards of the Palace), *Dragoni guardiacaccia* (Dragoon Gamekeepers) and *Alabardieri di Sardegna* (Sardinian Halberdiers). In 1849 the Dragoons and Halberdiers were disbanded, and on 22 February 1852 the remaining companies were reorganized, losing some of their ancient privileges.

Cacciatori Franchi

On 30 June 1849 the 'Free Chasseurs' penal battalion, dating from 1815, was expanded to 3 battalions by incorporating Italian deserters from the Austrian Army. In 1851 the *Cacciatori Franchi* were reduced to 2 battalions of 4 companies each, and during 1854–59 progressively to 4, 3 and finally 2 companies. In 1860 they were augmented to 6 companies by merging with two similar penal units from the Central Italian League.

Carabinieri

From its foundation in 1814, the famous corps of *Carabinieri Reali* (Royal Carabineers) acted as a mounted and foot national gendarmerie, and also provided the mounted guard of the Piedmontese kings; in time of war, contingents were usually mobilized and attached to the field army. With the outbreak of the First War, 3 mounted squadrons (totalling about 430 men) were mobilized as the personal guard for King Charles Albert, while another 3 half-squadrons were attached to the various divisions to act as military police (At Pastrengo on 30 April 1848 a Carabinieri charge saved the king's life). In 1852 the whole corps was reorganized in 7 divisions (Torino, Savoia, Alessandria, Genova, Cuneo, Novara and Nizza). On the island of Sardinia, police functions were performed by another corps, the *Cavalleggeri di Sardegna* (Sardinian Light Horse), of 3 squadrons. This unit was disbanded on 21 April 1852 after a failed mutiny, and replaced with the *Carabinieri di Sardegna* organized in two divisions based in Cagliari and Sassari. During the Second and Third Wars units of Carabinieri were again mobilized to serve with the armies; they mainly acted as military police and scouts to gather local information, but they were sometimes directly involved in combat against the Austrians.

During the period 1859–61 the Carabinieri underwent radical expansion to control the whole national territory of the newly unified

Officer of the Cavalry Regiment *'Guide'*, 1861; for colours, compare with Plate C2. Three squadrons were formed on 12 September 1848, their main function being to act on the orders of the field corps commands during the campaign against the Austrians. The uniform used until disbandment in 1850 was very similar to that of the line cavalry, with crimson as the piping colour; the only difference was in the headgear, which was a shako (similar to that adopted by the infantry in 1849) covered with crimson cloth. On 10 April 1859, in view of the new war against Austria, a single squadron of the Guides was re-raised. In 1860, this was transformed into a regiment, receiving the new light blue hussar-style uniform illustrated; the unit later served in operations against the 'brigands' in the south.

Standard-bearer of the *Ussari di Piacenza*, 1861. The flag is the new green, white and red *tricolore* of the Kingdom of Italy (first used by the Cisalpine Republic in 1797), bearing the white cross of the House of Savoy on a crowned red shield. After being absorbed into the Piedmontese Army, the Piacenza Hussars took part in the counter-insurgency operations in southern Italy, and in the Third War of Unification against Austria in 1866, when they fought with great courage in the terrible Italian defeat at Custoza. In 1871, the unit lost its hussar designation and uniform.

kingdom. In 1861 the Sardinian Carabinieri were disbanded, and the nationwide corps was reorganized in 13 territorial legions, with differing numbers of subordinate divisions: 3rd, 8th, 9th & 11th Legions (each 2 divisions); 1st, 2nd, 6th, 10th, 12th & 13th (3 divisions); and 4th, 5th & 7th (4 divisions). The new total manpower was impressive: 503 officers, 12,649 foot and 4,297 mounted rankers. The deployment of the Carabinieri was 'capillary', even villages having a few men, and the corps was known for its excellent training and loyalty to the Piedmontese monarchy.

National Guard

In March 1848 King Charles Albert ordered the creation of a National Guard, commonly known as the 'Communal Militia'. This comprised second-line military units recruited locally to perform internal security duties. The initial plans called for 56 battalions, 6 of which were to be recruited in Sardinia (whose male population had the exceptional privilege of being exempted from military service in the Piedmontese Army). In the event, only a very limited number of companies were formed, all in the major urban centres. They played no part in the campaigns of 1848–49, and their numbers and value remained insignificant until their transformation into the National Guard of the Kingdom of Italy in 1860 (see below).

Naval infantry

From 1830, the Piedmontese Navy provided a *Battaglione Real Navi* of 958 men in 8 companies. In March 1848 a detachment was sent to the front during the First War. On 8 April 1850 the unit was expanded into a 2-battalion regiment, but this was short-lived: on 26 March 1851 it was again reduced to a single battalion, with 500 men in 6 companies. In April 1859 two depot companies were added, and on 7 June the unit was once again raised to regimental strength, with 2 battalions each of 1 depot and 4 active companies.

WEAPONS

Infantry

From 1842, Piedmont began to modify its flintlock muskets with percussion locks, and also to produce new percussion weapons. In December 1844 the new percussion *fucile da fanteria mod. 1844* (M1844 infantry musket), patterned on the French M1842, appeared in two

versions – longer for grenadiers and fusiliers, and shorter for chasseurs. At the same time, a new M1843 infantry equipment and infantry sabre were adopted (Guard infantry had the same muskets, but a different model of short sabre). Some time later, the use of the sabre was limited to NCOs and grenadier rankers. Comparative trials in October 1859 to evaluate the Austrian Lorenz, British Enfield, Swiss Prèlat-Burnard and French M1857 ended with the latter chosen for production as the new Piedmontese *fucile da fanteria mod. 1860*.

The Bersaglieri had special equipment from the foundation of the corps. Before 1848 they were still armed with the La Marmora rifled carbine and carried the M1836 backpack designed specifically for them; their light equipment did not include a cartridge pouch, and ammunition was carried in a pocket at the base of the backpack. In 1844 the La Marmora carbine started to be produced in two versions, a longer model for privates and corporals and a shorter one for sergeants and trumpeters. In 1848 the Bersaglieri adopted the new *carabina mod. 1848*, which continued to be produced in longer and shorter versions; these were replaced eight years later by the new *carabina mod. 1856* in a single version. The adoption of this weapon also saw the introduction of a separate ammunition pouch worn on the front of the waistbelt. As a secondary weapon, the Bersaglieri carried their special M1835 sabre; in 1850, the NCOs received a longer version.

Cavalry

In 1848 the line cavalry were armed with the M1833/36 cavalry lance, M1843 *pistolone da cavalleria* (cavalry musketoon) and M1834 cavalry sabre; NCOs and trumpeters carried only the sabre and the M1844 pistol. Weapons remained more or less the same until 1860, when a new M1860 musketoon, sabre and pistol were introduced. The armament of the new light horse units formed after the First War differed between regiments. The *Cavalleggeri di Novara* and *Cavalleggeri di Aosta*, which were converted from existing line units, kept their old weapons. The newly raised units were issued with the M1844 musket of the Pontoon Corps, M1844 pistol and M1834 cavalry sabre, as were those light horse regiments raised in 1859; all light cavalry NCOs and trumpeters were armed only with sabre and pistol.

The regiments of lancers formed in 1860 were also equipped as per the line: the slightly modified M1833/49 lance, M1860 musketoon and M1860 sabre. The Guides of 1848 were armed only with the M1834 cavalry sabre, the new Guides of 1859 with the M1833 artillery sabre and M1844 pistol. After their incorporation in the Piedmontese Army, the *Ussari di Piacenza* were re-armed with the M1860 cavalry sabre and two M1844 pistols.

Artillery

From 1830, a gifted Piedmontese artillery officer, Giovanni Cavalli, began work on the improvement of the smoothbore cannon then in use. He invented the first successful rifled, breech-loading cannon, and a new carriage design that improved both the stability and manoeuvrability of guns. After 1843, this latter 'Cavalli system' was officially adopted by the Piedmontese artillery, and by 1848 all the Army's guns were mounted on his carriage. However, the high command

Piedmontese sapper of the Engineer Corps, 1859; compare with Plate B2. On 4 March 1848 the engineers were given this peculiar headgear known as a *cappello-shakot*, made by adding a wide brim to the infantry shako (after 1850, the kepi). On the front it had a black falling plume above a plate showing a flaming grenade over crossed axes. This was replaced in 1863 with a kepi (see page 16). The engineers were not the only Piedmontese technical corps to copy the Bersaglieri in their parade headgear; the Train also adopted the light infantry's *bombetta*, but with red and black plumes.

Captain and quartermaster NCO of the Engineer Corps, 1863. The officer's dark blue tunic has a red collar, cuff flaps and piping to the front and cuffs; silver metal and bullion epaulettes; and the light blue sash. Beneath his black feather falling plume can be seen the three silver bands of rank round the top of the dark blue kepi piped in red, and a gilt crossed-axes badge. The NCO wears the M1861 grey greatcoat. His epaulettes are red with silver crescents, his collar patches black with red piping and his rank stripes silver on red backing. His dark blue kepi has a white top band, red piping and pompon, a black horsehair plume similar to that of the horse artillery, the national cockade and brass crossed axes.

continued to have doubts about the battlefield efficiency of rifled weapons, and Cavalli's guns were not adopted until after the allied French artillery of the La Hitte/Beaulieu system had demonstrated the superiority of rifled cannon during the Second War.

The composition of Piedmontese batteries in 1848 was (mounted and field batteries) 6x 8-pdr guns & 2x 15cm howitzers; (positional batteries) 6x 16-pdr guns & 2x 15cm howitzers. A reorganization in 1850 abolished the old distinction between mounted, field and positional batteries; they were now to be distinguished between the *batterie da 16* and *batterie da 8* (with 16-pdr and 8-pdr guns respectively). In peacetime, each battery had 4 guns, and in wartime 2 howitzers were added. On 21 April 1859, shortly before the outbreak of the Second War, the composition of batteries was increased to 8x 16-pdr guns for the *batterie da 16*, and 6x 8-pdr guns and 2x 15cm howitzers for the *batterie da 8*.

In 1848 the artillerymen's weapons included the M1844 artillery musket with its sword-bayonet, the M1833 cavalry sabre and M1844 pistol. The soldiers of the Pontoon Corps had their own M1844 musket with its M1831/33 sidearm-bayonet. In 1859 the sword-bayonet was slightly modified, the new version being given to corporals and trumpeters. All the other weapons remained the same until the birth of the Italian Army.

Engineers and Train

Until 4 March 1848 the Piedmontese engineers were armed with the short M1844 infantry musket, plus an M1839 engineer sidearm with serrated blade. On that date these were ordered to be replaced with the M1844 artillery musket and its sword-bayonet, but photographs from 1859–60 still show engineers with old infantry muskets and M1839 sidearms. The soldiers of the Train were armed with the M1844 pistol and M1833 sabre, plus a certain number of M1833 cavalry muskets for performing escort duties. These were replaced in 1852 with M1844 Carabinieri muskets, without bayonets.

Carabinieri

The Carabinieri had their own variant of the M1844 musket, in longer and shorter versions for foot and mounted men respectively; the latter also carried a cavalry sabre and an M1844 pistol (subsequently replaced with a new M1847). The *Cavalleggeri di Sardegna* carried an M1834 cavalry sabre, two M1844 pistols and an M1844 Carabinieri musket.

THE ITALIAN ARMY

The Italian Army was born on 4 May 1861, following the proclamation of Victor Emmanuel II as King of Italy on 17 March. The assimilation of the northern and central Italian troops into the former Piedmontese Army was fairly straightforward, thanks to Piedmont's previous involvement in the creation of the Central Italian League forces, but straightforward integration of the Neapolitan forces proved impossible. Proud of their heritage, they rejected the proposed merger, and consequently, in February 1861, the Neapolitan Army was disbanded. Many of its officers and soldiers joined the insurgents in what other Italians termed 'the Brigandage', a fiercely fought guerrilla civil war which lasted for the rest of the decade, and which by 1864 tied down about half the Army - some 100,000 men.

Another major problem was the integration of Garibaldi's volunteers into the new Army. The 20,000 'Red Shirts' of Garibaldi's 'Southern Army' were very popular among the Italian people, and they supported the progressive political ideas inspired by Mazzini. They also favoured military intervention against Rome and the remaining Papal territories, whereas the new Italian government was anxious to rely upon diplomacy. The conservative Piedmontese generals, fearing that their inclusion would cause political unrest in the ranks, decided to disband them; any volunteer wishing to join the new Army had to enlist individually, and officers had to be confirmed in their role by a Piedmontese examining commission. These measures caused widespread discontent among Garibaldi's volunteers, and hampered the campaign against the insurgents.

ABOVE LEFT
Naif but apparently careful watercolour drawing of an officer and soldier of the Piedmontese National Guard in parade dress; the uniform illustrated, introduced in 1859, was inherited with few modifications by the new Italian National Guard in 1861. The dark blue tunic has a red collar, pointed cuffs and epaulettes, and the grey trousers a broad red stripe. The black kepi has a white top band and plume, red cords, a red pompon with a white centre and a yellow cockade.

ABOVE RIGHT
The merged Italian *Corpo Fanteria Real Marina*, 1861–70, inherited the uniform of the Neapolitan *Real Navi*, modelled on that of the *Bersaglieri* but with an anchor collar badge, black facings and crimson cords instead of red and green respectively. (Left to right:) corporal in winter dress with M1860 *bonnet* with crimson piping and tassel, lieutenant, soldier, and sergeant.

The new Italian forces inherited the old administrative and command structure of the Piedmontese Army, which was suspicious of the new elements integrated from other armies; any act of insubordination or desertion was punished severely, which had negative effects. In the south, the unification process was perceived simply as an occupation by a foreign power, and the Piedmontese were widely hated. The extension of universal conscription to the whole national territory caused great discontent in the southern provinces, where it was perceived as both tyrannical and a mortal blow to the local rural economy. Considering all these problems, and the deep divisions existing even within the Italian high command, it is not surprising that the Italian forces were severely defeated in the Third War of Unification in 1866. Many of these difficulties were resolved only after the end of the *Risorgimento*, by the major reforms instituted by Gen Cesare Magnani Ricotti in 1873. This programme (which included the formation of the new *Alpini* mountain infantry) transformed the military forces on the Prussian model, and made Italy one of the leading European military powers.

Organization

This was basically unchanged from the Piedmontese Army of 1860: 68 regiments of infantry, 17 of cavalry, 9 of artillery, 2 of engineers and 3 of train, plus 13 legions of Carabinieri. In total, the new army numbered 322,307, of whom 11,250 were officers. One of the greatest problems during the 1860s was a shortage of officers and, more importantly, their inadequate levels of professionalism and training. In 1862 the inclusion of ex-Red Shirts led to the creation of 6 new infantry brigades: Granatieri di Toscana, Cagliari, Valtellina, Palermo, Ancona and Puglie.

During 1861–67, the Army also included the *Legione Ausiliaria Ungherese* (Hungarian Auxiliary Legion). This had been formed by Garibaldi on 16 July 1860 during his campaign in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, with Hungarian volunteers under the command of Col Eber. After the disbandment of the Red Shirts the 1,400-strong Hungarian Legion was absorbed into the Italian Army, forming 2 infantry battalions (including Bersaglieri and a Serbo-Croatian company), 2 hussar squadrons and a battery of mountain artillery. This corps played a significant role in counter-insurgency operations until its disbandment in 1867 (see Plate D2).

During their struggle in the south the regulars also relied heavily on support from the National Guard, the Carabinieri and the Customs Guard corps. In order to increase mounted strength for counter-guerrilla operations in the challenging terrain of southern Italy, new mounted units were formed outside the cavalry branch. The Bersaglieri had a leading role in these operations, and provisional mounted platoons of Bersaglieri, equipped and armed as light horse, were employed with success.

The naval infantry were completely reorganized on 21 March 1861, under the personal supervision of Prime Minister Cavour. The Piedmontese Regt *Real Navi* and the Neapolitan Regt *Real Marina* were merged into a new *Corpo Fanteria Real Marina* of 2 regiments each with 3 small battalions, each of 2 companies (plus 2 depot companies). Their uniform was that adopted on 15 December 1860 by the Piedmontese *Real Navi*: a copy of the Bersaglieri uniform with slight differences, such as an anchor badge, black facings on crimson cords and tassels. In 1866,

OPPOSITE

Officer (second left) and soldiers of the Italian National Guard, 1861. This new campaign uniform was issued from 27 January 1861, replacing the old Piedmontese M1859 campaign dress shown in Plate C4. Current during the counter-insurgency fighting in the south, the new uniform was both practical and smart, and became popular throughout the territory of the new nation. The private's dark blue kepi had red piping and pompon, a black top band and tuft, and the national cockade above the silver Gothic characters 'G N'. The double-breasted grey greatcoat had a black collar with buttons and red patches, black pointed cuffs piped in red, and red epaulettes; the officer's 'metal' is silver. The distinctions of the bugler (second right) are a white tuft, bugle-horn badges and silver piping on the collar. The other corporal (right) also has silver cuff chevrons of rank, and note the red-piped black rear-pocket flaps on his coat. The grey trousers have a wide red side-stripe.

following the outbreak of the Third War, the battalions were expanded to 6 companies each, and after that conflict the corps was reorganized as a single regiment with 3 battalions each of 8 companies. This was finally disbanded in 1878.

National Guard

On 5 July 1860 the Piedmontese National Guard began reorganization and expansion into the new National Guard of the Kingdom of Italy, which soon acquired an efficient structure throughout the cities and provinces of the kingdom. The National Guard was organized into companies of more-or-less 100 men each; these were assembled to form battalions, which usually had roughly 500 men in 4, 5 or 6 companies, and 2 battalions might be combined to form a legion. By the end of 1860 the National Guard comprised 89 legions, 570 battalions and 10,708 companies, which might be of line infantry, Bersaglieri, cavalry or artillery. Their main function was to perform auxiliary duties for the regular army, detaching some units (the Mobile National Guard) for service as garrison or border troops. Mobile battalions and companies played a significant role in the campaign against the 'Brigandage', which enabled the Army to transfer regular units to face the Austrians in 1866. Due to decreasing popular enthusiasm, and the financial crisis faced by many Italian cities, the National Guard was gradually reduced in numbers until it was finally disbanded in 1876.

Neapolitan Grenadier of the Guard. The large black bearskin has a white plume, cords, flounders and tassels; the brass front plate shows a flaming grenade on a 'sunburst' background. The dark blue coatee has a red collar, cuffs and epaulettes, red piping to the dark blue cuff flaps, and nine tapered stripes of white braid (extended 'buttonhole loops') across the front. The trousers are red, the square-toed shoes black leather. The white equipment comprises crossbelts for a pouch and a double frog for the socket bayonet and French-style sabre. The weapon is a flintlock 'musket of 40 inches'.

Weapons

The Italian Army inherited the weapons of the Piedmontese forces in a period when they were undergoing gradual change. The standard line infantry rifle remained the percussion-lock *fucile da fanteria mod. 1860*, which was used until the end of the Third War. Disastrous experiences in 1866 prompted its replacement with a breech-loader, but financial constraints initially limited the programme to the conversion of the existing weapon by means of the system invented by Salvatore Carcano, which proved to be efficient and easy to manufacture. This new M1867 Carcano remained in service until the adoption of the Swiss M1870 Vetterli, being used for the last time during the capture of Rome in 1870.

In 1867 the M1856 Bersaglieri carbines were also modified with the Carcano system. After the capture of Rome, in which the Bersaglieri had formed the main attacking force, they were briefly equipped with M1867 Remington rolling-block rifles captured from the Papal Army, but in 1871 they too adopted the Vetterli. On its formation in 1861 the naval infantry adopted the M1856 Bersaglieri carbine, but in 1862 this was replaced with the British P1858 Enfield naval rifle, known in Italy as the *carabina mod. 1862*.

During the first years, the new army's cavalry weapons remained more or less unchanged: the M1860 sabre (which was replaced in 1871), M1860 pistol and M1860 *pistolone* (musketoon), while the old lance had been replaced with the new M1860. The Italian authorities were very slow to grasp the potential of the new revolvers, and continued to prefer single-shot percussion pistols. Lefaucheux revolvers were adopted by the Piedmontese Navy in 1859 and by the Carabinieri in 1861, but not by the Army. The revolvers of the Carabinieri, produced in a short version specifically for them, proved their value during the counter-insurgency campaign in the south; among other models, many Army officers purchased Lefaucheux revolvers privately during the 1860s, but they were never officially adopted. Finally, in 1874, the Italian land forces adopted M1874 Chamelot-Delvigne revolvers.

The *pistolone da cavalleria* was later replaced with the M1870 Vetterli cavalry carbine. Both the M1844 artillery and M1844 pontoon corps muskets were converted into breech-loaders by the Carcano modification in 1871. From 1860, the engineers had adopted the M1856 carbine and bayonet. Both long and short versions of the M1844 Carabinieri musket were also modified with the Carcano system in 1869, but they were soon replaced with the M1870 Vetterli rifle for Carabinieri.

THE ARMY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES

The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, as restored in 1815–16, was indeed formed from two different kingdoms: that of Naples and that of Sicily. The Bourbons of Naples were the most conservative, rigid and obscurantist of the Italian dynasties, and their realm – hardly emerging from feudalism – suffered many hardships. Unlike the other Italian states, the kingdom had not developed a strong middle class and intelligentsia; all political power was still in the hands of the aristocracy,

the mass of the population lived in miserable poverty and ignorance, and the Church exerted a medieval influence.

The kingdom had no industrial base, and the wide technological gap between Naples and Piedmont was apparent in the age and quality of the weapons available to the two armies. The Neapolitan Army also suffered from an enormous bureaucratic apparatus, riddled with corruption and wastage of every kind. Generally it was considered by the population as a tool of repression in the hands of the monarchy; most officers were aristocrats, and their men suffered from a general lack of efficiency, discipline, training and morale. The only positive characteristic of the Neapolitan soldier was, despite everything, his great loyalty to the king.

In 1848, it became obvious that the main function of the Neapolitan forces was the suppression of any liberal or democratic movement, and many of the more progressive individual officers departed to join Piedmont's war against the Austrians. However, with 45,000 soldiers in peacetime rising to 65,000 under wartime mobilization, the Neapolitans appeared to be the only real rivals to the Piedmontese in Italy. This remained the opinion of many military observers until 1860, when Garibaldi's expedition demonstrated the true fragility of the Neapolitan military structure.

Neapolitan light infantryman of the Chasseurs of the Guard. His black shako has a red top band, white side chevrons and a double green pompon; the brass plate shows a flaming grenade set on a bugle-horn. Like the grenadier's, his dark blue coatee has red collar and cuffs, dark blue cuff flaps piped red, and nine frontal stripes of white braid, but his epaulettes are green. His summer trousers and all belt equipment are white. Note (right) the white tassel from the rolled forage cap strapped beneath the white-covered flap of the cartridge pouch, and the bugle-horn badge on the brown leather canteen. The flintlock is presumably the 'musket of 38 inches'.

ORGANIZATION:

Guard infantry

In order to retain their grip on power, the Bourbon monarchy maintained the strongest royal guard in Italy. Organized on 14 June 1815 shortly after the proclamation of the new kingdom, its infantry comprised a 1st Bde with 2 regiments of grenadiers, and a 2nd Bde with 2 regiments of chasseurs *(cacciatori)*. Each regiment had 2 battalions of 4 companies and a single regimental depot company. After defeat in the 1821 revolution, these were reduced to 2 regiments of grenadiers and 1 of chasseurs. On 29 May 1827 each battalion was increased to 6 active companies, to match the line infantry. On 21 June 1833 a depot company was added to each battalion. In June 1848 each battalion was augmented with a 7th active company.

On 5 January 1856 a new light infantry unit was authorized, the *Battaglione Tiragliatori della Guardia Reale* (Battalion of Tirailleurs of the Royal Guard), with 8 companies. On the same day, each Guard regiment reverted to having a single depot company. On 14 December 1860 the 3 Guard infantry regiments were disbanded, the remaining personnel forming a new battalion of *Volteggiatori della Guardia Reale* (Voltigeurs of the Royal Guard) of 8 companies. Together with the Bn of Tirailleurs, this formed a new Guard brigade.

Guard cavalry

From 18 August 1815, this comprised a brigade with 2 regiments of light horse. Each *cavalleggeri*, regiment was organized in two 'divisions', with 2 squadrons each, and each squadron was divided into 2 companies. Of the

4 companies in each division, one was designated the 'chosen' company and one the depot company. On 11 September 1824 a reserve squadron was added to each regiment. On 21 June 1833 the divisions were discontinued, and each squadron was divided into 4 platoons. In 1838 the regiments were renamed the 1st and 2nd Regts of Hussars of the Royal Guard, forming a brigade. After that date, they followed all the modifications of the line cavalry units.

Neapolitan Tirailleur of the Guard, 1856–60. Colours: black shako with yellow pompon and black tuft, yellow top band, white narrow-and-wide side-chevrons, yellow loop securing red cockade, and brass crowned bugle-horn badge. Dark green coatee with yellow collar, having white braids and dark green patches shaped *en accolade*; yellow piping to front edge and pointed cuffs, which have white braid loops above and below. Epaulettes with yellow straps, dark green crescents and fringes; dark green trousers. Black French M1845 belt equipment; shako badge repeated on buckle of waistbelt and ends of blanket-roll valise on the backpack. Note the *yataghan*-shaped sword-bayonet of the flintlock 'carbine of 32 inches'.

Line infantry

On 21 June 1833 the line infantry was reorganized and expanded from 9 to 12 regiments. Each was to have 2 battalions, each with 6 active companies (1 each of grenadiers and chasseurs and 4 of fusiliers) and a depot company. This organization remained more or less the same until 1848, but on 23 June 1840 a 13th Regt was formed from the depot companies of the existing 12 regiments.

On 14 April 1848 a fifth company of fusiliers was ordered added to each battalion, and company establishment was increased to 150 men at the end of April. During the campaigns of 1848–49 against the secessionist Kingdom of Sicily and the Roman Republic, a 3rd Bn was added to the elite 1st Line Inf Regt, and on 15 April 1849 the strength of each company was increased to 160 men.

On 5 January 1856 the organization was slightly modified: each regiment was now to have 12 active companies divided between 2 battalions, plus a single regimental depot company. The 3rd Bn of the 1st Line Inf Regt was transformed into a new light infantry unit. On 18 August 1859, following the disbandment of the Swiss infantry regiments (see below), the 14th and 15th Line Inf Regts were formed.

The line infantry also had another elite unit, the *Reggimento Carabinieri Reali* (Regiment of Royal Carabineers), formed on 16 April 1848 with the best men from the recently disbanded *Gendarmeria Reale a piedi* (Royal Foot Gendarmerie). This new unit was extremely loyal to the royal family, and was second in importance only to those

of the Royal Guard. It was composed of 2 battalions with 7 companies each: 1 each of grenadiers and voltigeurs (light company), 4 of carabineers, and a depot company. On 17 September 1848 company strength was established as 130 men, then increased to 160 in April 1849. In February 1852 the 2 grenadier companies of this regiment were used to form the new *Carabinieri dello Stato Maggiore* (Carabineers of the General Staff), but new grenadier companies were soon formed.

Foreign infantry

Following the uprisings of 1821 and the subsequent occupation of the kingdom by Austrian troops until 1827, the Bourbons decided to employ 4 mercenary regiments of Swiss infantry to create an elite core uninvolved in the political turmoil of the kingdom. These were formed during 1825–29, by conventions reached with various cantons of the Swiss Confederation for a duration of 30 years. Each regiment had 2 battalions

FAR LEFT
Extravagantly moustachioed NCO of Hussars of the Guard, in the simple uniform worn on campaign. Colours: red shako with white top band, 'lentil' pompon and loop to red cockade; white cords, flounders and tassels. Short light blue jacket with red pointed cuffs and white edging to collar and cuffs. Hardly visible here under the tassels are three red rank chevrons, point upwards, on his left upper sleeve; the silver diagonal stripes on both forearms indicate length of service. Red-and-white barrel sash, white belts and sword-knot, steel scabbard. White summer trousers over black leather half-boots.

LEFT
Soldier of the grenadier company of the Regiment of Royal Carabineers; extravagant sideburns are visible behind the chinstrap. The black bearskin has a red plume, cord and tassels. The dark blue coatee has red piping to the collar, front edge and pointed cuffs, deep white collar braid, and red epaulettes, and he wears red trousers. The white belt equipment shows a brass flaming grenade on the pouch crossbelt, and note the similar badge-pin on his right breast looping up the pricker and brush chains. (The apparent small 'badges' on his collar are blemishes on the original image.)

RIGHT
Light infantryman of the line *cacciatori*. Colours: dark green shako with yellow top band, piping, pompon and cockade loop, and brass bugle-horn badge. Short dark green coatee with yellow collar and piping to front and pointed cuffs, dark green collar patches; yellow epaulettes with light green crescents and fringes. White summer trousers and spats, black leather shoes; belt equipment was officially black, but note here a white waistbelt supporting the frogged sword-bayonet.

FAR RIGHT
Dragoon of Neapolitan line cavalry. Colours: white metal helmet with brass comb, edging and chinscales; bottom half covered with black fur, and black fur 'caterpillar' crest on comb; brass flaming grenade badge on front, red plume on left side. Short-tailed dark blue coatee with red collar, epaulettes, cuff flaps and piping to front and cuffs (note, as usual, red piping along lower edge extending into red-lined tail turnbacks). White summer trousers over black half-boots. White belts, brass flaming grenade badge on waistbelt buckle, brass pricker fittings and chains on pouch belt; steel scabbard.

of 6 companies (1 each of grenadiers and chasseurs and 4 of fusiliers). In addition, each regiment had an artillery section, which was independent of the Neapolitan artillery corps. Unsurprisingly, this 'private army' of mercenaries were not particularly popular with their Neapolitan comrades, but they performed very reliably during the reconquest of Messina in 1848, and were certainly the best troops in the Army.

On 7 July 1859, however, the Swiss units attempted a mutiny against the king, and they were disbanded the following month. On 21 September 1859 it was decided to form 2 new foreign battalions of line infantry, known as *Carabinieri Leggeri* (Light Carabineers). These were formed from loyal elements of the Swiss regiments, plus new mercenaries mainly from the Austrian Empire and Bavaria, and each battalion had 8 companies. On 12 February 1860 the 13th Bn of Cacciatori, which was also composed of Swiss soldiers, was transformed into the 3rd Bn of Carabinieri Leggeri. An artillery battery, formed from surviving elements of the former Swiss regimental artillery, was attached to the 3 foreign battalions.

Light infantry

In the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies light infantrymen were commonly known as *cacciatori.* Recruited mainy in the mountainous regions, and noted for their marksmanship, these chasseurs were probably the best national troops of the Neapolitan Army; they were admired by the Piedmontese, and even by Garibaldi. In 1830 there were 6 battalions of cacciatori, with 6 companies each. On 1 July 1840 a 7th Bn was formed

(continued on page 33)

PIEDMONTESE ARMY, 1848–49
1: Corporal, Grenadier Regiment of the Guard, 1848
2: Soldier, Infantry Brigade 'Casale', 1849
3: Gunner, 1st Artillery Brigade, 1848
4: Line infantryman, National Guard of Milan, 1848
1
2
3
4

A

PIEDMONTESE ARMY, 1859
1: Trooper, Line Cavalry Regiment 'Genova Cavalleria'
2: Sapper, 1st Engineer Battalion
3: Soldier, 1st Battalion of Bersaglieri
4: Volunteer, 'Cacciatori delle Alpi'
1
2
3
4

CENTRAL ITALIAN LEAGUE, 1860
1: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment 'Ussari di Piacenza'
2: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment 'Guide'
3: Corporal, Battaglione Bersaglieri di Vignola
4: Soldier, National Guard of Emilia
1
2
3
4

ITALIAN ARMY, 1866
1: Officer, 4th Line Infantry Regiment
2: Infantryman, Hungarian Auxiliary Legion
3: Trooper, Mounted Guides, National Volunteer Corps
4: Infantryman, National Volunteer Corps
1
2
3
4

COUNTER-INSURGENCY, 1860s
1: Lieutenant, Mounted Bersaglieri, 1867
2: Lance-corporal, Carabinieri, 1866
3: Customs Guard, 1867
4: Calabrian brigand, 1863
4
2
3
1

NEAPOLITAN & SICILIAN ARMIES, 1848
1: Soldier, 3rd Swiss Infantry Regiment
2: Soldier, Naval Infantry Regiment '*Real Marina*'
3: Soldier, line infantry, secessionist Kingdom of Sicily
4: Officer, line cavalry, secessionist Kingdom of Sicily
2
1
4
3

NEAPOLITAN ARMY, 1860
1: Second sergeant, Foot Royal Bodyguards
2: Voltigeur, Line Infantry Regiment 'Carabinieri Reali'
3: Soldier, 5th Chasseur Battalion
4: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment 'Cacciatori a cavallo'
1
2
3
4

NEAPOLITAN CAVALRY, 1860
1: Trooper, Guides of the General Staff
2: Trooper, Sicilian Guards of Honour
3: Trooper, 1st Regiment Royal Guard Hussars
4: Trooper, 1st Regiment of Lancers
1
2
3
4

using the depot companies of the existing battalions, and a 7th depot company was added to each battalion on 14 April 1848. During that year, a provisional volunteer battalion of cacciatori, named *Croce di Malta,* was formed to take part in the war against Austria, but was soon disbanded. In December 1848 the 8th Bn was formed, receiving an extra 8th Co in May 1849. On 15 April 1849 company strength was increased to 160 men.

On 23 January 1850, 3 more battalions numbered 10th–12th were added, each with 8 companies (the short-lived *Croce di Malta* unit had presumably been considered as the 9th Battalion). On 20 March 1850 a new 8-company 13th Cacciatori Bn was also formed, with Swiss soldiers. On 5 January 1856 the extra 3rd Bn, 1st Line Inf Regt was transformed into a new 9th Cacciatori Bn; orders of the same day raised the first 7 battalions to 8 companies. On 18 August 1859 the 14th and 15th Bns were authorized, and the 16th on 1 January 1860. On 12 February 1860, following the transformation of the Swiss 13th Cacciatori into the new 3rd Bn of Carabinieri Leggeri (see above, 'Foreign infantry'), a new 13th Bn of Cacciatori was raised with Neapolitan personnel.

In addition to these regular light troops, on 15 September 1860 King Francis II of the Two Sicilies (who was then under siege in Gaeta with most of his regular army) ordered the creation of 4 irregular battalions of lightly equipped volunteers, to be grouped into a brigade and to act as guerrillas in the areas of the kingdom recently occupied by the Piedmontese, mainly in the mountains of the Abruzzo. Only three of the four planned units were formed, but under the command of the Prussian Col La Grange they proved to be effective, winning some minor victories before being obliged to seek refuge in the Papal States. This episode may be seen as the first embryo of what later became 'the Brigandage'.

Officer of 1st Regt of Dragoons; uniform colours are as the previous illustration of a trooper, but with silver 'metal' and a more elaborate helmet badge with the grenade set on foliate sprays. The saddlecloth is red with inset dark blue silk-effect edging, and in the rear corner a silver flaming grenade above the regimental number.

Line cavalry

Under King Ferdinand II's reorganization of the Neapolitan Army on 21 June 1833, the line cavalry were increased from 3 to 5 regiments – 3 of dragoons and 2 of lancers. The former Light Horse Regts *Re* and *Regina* (King and Queen) became the 1st and 2nd Dragoons, while the lancer *Reggimento Real Ferdinando* detached 2 of its 5 squadrons to form the 2nd Lancers. In peacetime, each regiment was to have 4 active squadrons, a reserve squadron being added in wartime. In April 1848 a depot squadron was added to the 1st Dragoons and 1st Lancers, and that June to the other regiments; each squadron was to number 140 men.

ABOVE
Trooper of the Mounted Carabineers. This regiment had the same weapons as the Dragoons. Colours: white metal helmet with brass comb, edging and chinscales; bottom half covered with black fur; black horsehair tuft and falling tail through comb; brass flaming grenade badge on front, and red plume on left. Short-tailed dark blue coatee with white collar; dark blue straps to otherwise red epaulettes; red piping to collar, front, cuffs and cuff flaps; white aiguillettes. White summer trousers, belts and sword knot; brass flaming grenade on pouch belt and buckle of waistbelt; steel scabbard.

RIGHT
Field-grade officer of the Mounted Carabineers. Uniform colours are as the previous illustration of a trooper, but with silver distinctions, and the winter red trousers with a dark blue side-stripe. The saddlecloth is dark blue with inset silver edging and red outer piping, embroidered in the corner with a silver grenade with gold flames.

On 17 January 1852 the regimental structure was changed: the 1st and 2nd Sqns were grouped to form a 1st Bn, and the 3rd, 4th and 5th into a 2nd Bn.

On 17 April 1848 the line cavalry acquired an elite unit: the *Reggimento Carabinieri a cavallo* (Regiment of Mounted Carabineers) was formed with the best men from the recently disbanded *Gendarmeria Reale a cavallo* (Royal Mounted Gendarmerie). In November 1848 it was decided to form a seventh unit, of light cavalry which could operate in any terrain and was to be equipped with rifled carbines. These *Cacciatori a cavallo* (Mounted Chasseurs) initially had only 2 squadrons of 166 men each, increased to 200 on 2 August 1849. In January 1850 the unit was increased to a 5-squadron regiment of conventional structure, the 1st Sqn having lances.

Artillery and Train

From 1833 the Neapolitan artillery and train were organized as 2 regiments of foot artillery (named *Re* and *Regina*), a company of mounted artillery, a brigade of artificers and a battalion of the train. Each foot regiment had 4 brigades each of 4 companies/batteries with 8 guns each, plus 2 depot companies. Of the 16 active companies of each regiment, only 8 served the field guns; the other 8, plus the 2 depot companies, were to serve the garrison artillery. (As noted above, there was also an elite Swiss battery formed from the artillery sections attached to each of

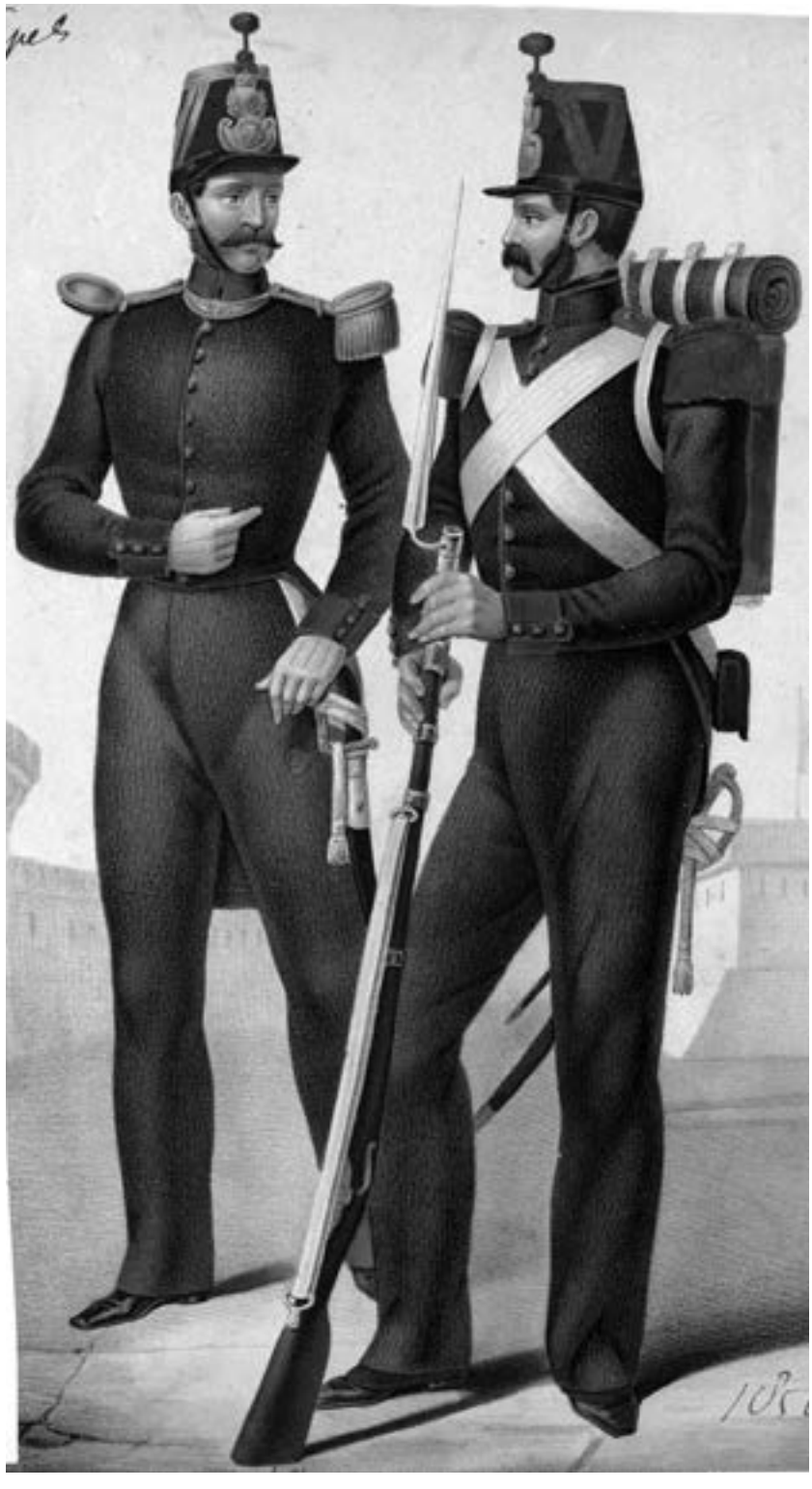
the 4 Swiss infantry regiments.) The company of horse artillery ('light artillery') had a single 8-gun battery to be employed in support of the cavalry.

The brigade of artificers was replaced on 16 November 1839 with a new mixed unit, with 4 companies of 120 men each: the 1st of gunsmiths, the 2nd of artificers, the 3rd and 4th of pontoneers. The train battalion had 6 companies; the 1st and 2nd had horses, the 3rd–5th mules and the 6th was a depot company until June 1842, when it too received mules.

On 19 March 1848 the 4 depot companies of the 2 artillery regiments were disbanded. On 9 January 1849 a new active company was added to each regiment, and the strength of each company was established at 150 men. On 5 January 1856 another active company, the 18th, was added to

Rare original studio photograph of a junior officer of the Mounted Carabineers; in the fashion of *c.*1860, the dark blue coatee is closely tailored, but the red trousers with a blue side-stripe are voluminous (as are the side-whiskers). This subaltern has two private purchase items slung to his hips on narrow leather straps – perhaps a pistol holster and a small telescope or cased binoculars? Note too the early example of a bar of medal ribbons on his breast. The officers and soldiers of this elite unit were particularly loyal to the monarchy of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, being former members of the disbanded Mounted Gendarmerie.

both regiments. On 25 March, the brigade of artificers was enlarged into a battalion with 6 companies: the 1st of gunsmiths, the 2nd–4th of artificers and the 5th and 6th of pontoneers. (This last company was



Officer and soldier of the Foot Artillery. Colours (soldier): black shako with red top band, side-chevrons and double pompon, brass plate. Dark blue coatee with red cuffs and epaulettes, and red piping to collar, cuff flaps and front. Dark blue trousers, black spats and shoes; white belt equipment. The artist seems to have mistakenly shown the cartridge pouch behind the left hip, apparently sharing a crossbelt with the double frog for the socket bayonet and *sabre-briquet*. (Officer): same basic colours, but gold top band and side-chevrons on shako; gold epaulette and contre-epaulette, and gilt officers' gorget.

formed by converting the 17th Co, 1st Arty Regt, which then had to organize a replacement company.)

Engineers

The engineer corps comprised a battalion of Sappers-Pioneers and a second of Sappers-Miners, each with 7 companies in peacetime and 6 in wartime; in April 1848 a depot company was added to the Sappers-Miners. In June 1850 and February 1851, new 8th Cos were added to the Sappers-Pioneers and Sappers-Miners respectively.

Royal Household and General Staff troops

In June 1833 the former *Reali Guardie del Corpo* (Royal Bodyguards) were divided into Foot Royal Bodyguards (80 men) and Horse Royal Bodyguards (50 men).

Officer of the Train; note that the uniform of the Neapolitan Horse Artillery was very similar. Colours: dark blue shako with gold top band and red piping; brass plate including crossed-cannons motif; red falling plume, red cords with flounders and tassels. Dark blue double-breasted coatee with red piping to collar, pointed cuffs, front plastron and bottom edge extending into tail turnbacks; gold epaulette and contre-epaulette. Dark blue trousers with double red side-stripes, over black half-boots. Black leather pouch belt with brass oval plate showing unit badge; light cavalry sabre in steel scabbard.

In addition to this corps, the Bourbon monarchs were also protected by the *Squadroni provinciali di Guardie d'Onore* (Provincial Squadrons of Guards of Honour), formed on 30 May 1833. These were composed of young aristocrats who assembled to provide an escort for the king when he was visiting their province. Nine squadrons, each of 4 platoons, were formed in the mainland part of the kingdom and 4 in Sicily. Between 1837 and 1839 the mainland squadrons were increased to 15, but the number of young noblemen wishing to serve decreased, and many squadrons had to reduce their strengths.

Two small escort units were attached to the Neapolitan General Staff. The single company of mounted *Guide dello Stato Maggiore* formed on 8 July 1839 was expanded into a squadron on 31 July 1859; initially, the Guides were chosen from among the best elements of both Guard and line cavalry regiments. The small foot company of *Carabinieri dello Stato Maggiore* was formed on 28 July 1852, with soldiers from the grenadier companies of the Regt of Royal Carabineers.

Gendarmerie

The kingdom had a strong corps of militarized police. By 1837, this Royal Gendarmerie comprised 8 infantry battalions and 10 cavalry squadrons, each battalion of 4 companies and each squadron of 2

Compare this illustration of a trooper with the studio photograph of a junior officer of the Horse Royal Bodyguards; the uniform of this small household corps was heavily influenced by that of its Spanish equivalent. Colours: white metal helmet with brass comb, edging, chinscales, bottom half covered with leopardskin-effect fur; black fur 'caterpillar' crest to comb, white feather plume on left. Dark blue coatee with white collar; red plastrons, straight cuffs and lining; nine white braid stripes on plastrons; three pointed loops on each cuff; red-piped silver epaulette and contre-epaulette. White trousers, black boots; pale buff gloves with white gauntlet cuffs. White waistbelt with horizontal red stripe, gilt clasp; white sword knot; modified French M1786 heavy cavalry officers' sabre, steel scabbard. Pouch belt with white and green squared effect, brass pricker fittings and chain; when on escort duties, the soldiers of this unit also carried the cavalry 'musket of 28 inches'.

platoons. In addition, the capital city of Naples had 2 foot companies and a mounted squadron to perform specific escort duties. Of the cavalry, 6 squadrons served on the mainland, 2 in Sicily and one each in Naples and Palermo.

On 15 March 1848, following the liberal revolts and the concession of a constitution by the king, the Royal Gendarmerie was disbanded; it was replaced by a new *Guardia di Pubblica Sicurezza* (Public Security Guard), but this lacked the military functions and organization of the old corps. On 16 December 1852 the Royal Gendarmerie was re-formed, alongside the Public Security Guard. The new Gendarmerie was initially structured in 5 infantry divisions, later 5 battalions, each with 6 companies of 200 men. The mounted branch was organized in 5 squadrons. In view of the unrest following Garibaldi's landing in Sicily, a new *Gendarmeria Ausiliaria* (Auxiliary Gendarmerie) was formed on 26 June 1860, with 30 companies of 100 men each, by mobilizing Urban Guards in each town.

National Guard

In 1833, King Ferdinand II reorganized a former corps into 12 foot battalions under the new title *Guardia di Sicurezza Interna* (Internal Security Guard). In 1848 the corps was renamed the National Guard, but was disbanded the following year. In 1860 it was re-formed, with 12 battalions of 5 companies each, for a total strength of 6,000 National Guardsmen.

Naval infantry

The *Reggimento Real Marina* had a long history, and was an elite unit of the Royal Guard, being brigaded with the Guard's Regt of Chasseurs. Under the organization of 12 February 1832, it had 2 battalions each of 4 companies, each company 162 men strong. On 1 May 1848 each battalion was increased to 6 companies. Together with the Swiss infantry, the naval regiment played a central part in the Bourbon recapture of Messina in 1848.

WEAPONS

Infantry

In 1843 the Neapolitan high command decided to replace the Army's old flintlock 'muskets of 40 and 38 inches' with percussion weapons patterned after the French M1842. Generally, converted weapons were given to the line infantry while brand new ones were issued to the light units. However, in practice the replacement of the line infantry's flintlocks was so slow that Neapolitan arsenals continued to produce parts for flintlock weapons

FAR LEFT
Soldier of the Carabineers of the General Staff in parade uniform; on campaign, the bearskin was replaced with a tall red kepi having a dark blue bottom band. Colours: black bearskin with red plume, and mixed red-and-blue cord. Dark blue coatee, with red piping to collar, pointed cuffs and front; red lace buttoned loop on collar; red epaulettes, mixed red-and-blue aiguillettes. White summer trousers, black shoes; white belt equipment, brass flaming grenade with pricker chain on pouch crossbelt.

LEFT
Neapolitan Foot Gendarme; the units serving in the capital had the bearskin illustrated, while those stationed in the provinces had the line infantry shako. Colours: black bearskin with red plume and brass plate. Dark blue coatee with red piping to collar, pointed cuffs and front; white epaulettes and aiguillettes. Dark blue trousers, black shoes; white belt equipment, brass flaming grenade on pouch belt; note double-frogged bayonet and sabre hanging behind left hip.

until as late as 1854. The Chasseurs initially received new percussion 'muskets of 38 inches', but these were soon replaced by a new M1848 'carbine of 32 inches' specifically produced for them. In 1850 they received a new M1850 version of their carbine, but were also partially equipped with the new 'musket of 28 inches'.

By about 1855, the Neapolitan infantry were armed as follows: Foot Royal Bodyguards, Grenadiers & Chasseurs of the Royal Guard, line infantry, Regt of Royal Carabineers, and Swiss infantry: 'muskets of 40 or 38 inches'; line Chasseur battalions and the *Battaglione Tiragliatori della Guardia Reale*: rifled 'carbines of 32 inches'; 13th (Swiss) Chasseur Bn: rifled M1851 Federal Swiss carbines. The line infantry muskets had socket bayonets, while the carbines and 'muskets of 28 inches' for the Chasseurs had *yataghan*-type sword-bayonets. From 1858, the 'muskets of 40, 38 and 28 inches' started to be rifled. In addition, a *sabre-briquet* derived from the French M1816 was almost universally carried. During the kingdom's last years various breech-loading weapons were tested by the Neapolitan high command, but this process was overtaken by Garibaldi's invasion.

Cavalry

Many Napoleonic-era cavalry weapons continued in use until 1861. The Horse Royal Bodyguards carried a modified version of the French heavy cavalry officers' M1786 sabre, plus the cavalry 'musket of 28 inches'. The Hussars of the Royal Guard had British light cavalry M1796 sabres and a 'musketoon of 22 inches'. The Dragoons and Lancers adopted (in 1834 and 1837 respectively) new sabres copied from the French M1822 heavy and light cavalry models; that of the Dragoons had a straight blade, that of the Lancers was curved. Dragoons were also equipped with the cavalry 'musket of 28 inches', while Lancers carried flintlock pistols and a M1843 lance. The Mounted Carabineers had the same weapons as the Dragoons; the Mounted Chasseurs received a semi-curved copy of the French M1822 line cavalry sabre, plus a 'rifle of 38 inches' designed specifically for them.

Artillery, Engineers and Gendarmerie

In 1835, a Neapolitan military mission was sent to France with the main objective of examining the new French artillery system of 1827; a similar mission was also sent to Piedmont to inspect the 1830 Piedmontese system. The subsequent Neapolitan artillery reforms, mainly based on the French model, led to the adoption of four new weapons for the field and positional batteries: 6-pdr cannon and 5.6-pdr howitzers for the field artillery, and 12-pdr cannon and 6-pdr howitzers for the positional batteries. Each battery had 6 cannon and 2 howitzers. There were also some mountain howitzers – 8-pdrs until 1841, and subsequently 12-pdrs. Until 1859, all the guns were smoothbores; in that year some rifled 16-pdrs or 8-pdrs of the French La Hitte system began production, but they were too late for the 1860 campaign. This was fought with smoothbore ordnance, with the exception of the battery attached to the foreign battalions of Light Carabiniers. A few rifled guns were employed during the last battle of the kingdom, in the siege of Gaeta, and some of these were later handed over to the Papal Army.

FAR LEFT
Junior NCO of Public Security Guard. Colours: black shako with red top band and double pompon, white side-chevrons, brass plate. Dark blue coatee with yellow collar, yellow piping to pointed cuffs and front; two red rank chevrons on left upper sleeve, silver service stripes on both forearms; red epaulettes (note white flaming grenade badge on pad), white fringes. White summer trousers, black shoes; white equipment with brass unit badge and flaming grenade on the crossbelts.

LEFT
Neapolitan naval infantryman of the *Reggimento Real Marina*. The stripes of gold braid on the front of the coatee indicate this elite unit's status as part of the Royal Guard. Colours: black shako with red top band and double pompon, gold narrow-and-wide side-chevrons, brass plate. Dark blue coatee with red collar, cuffs and epaulettes; gold fouled anchor badges on collar; nine gold braid stripes on front, three gold braid loops on cuffs. Dark blue trousers, black shoes and white belt equipment. (The apparent lines on the crossbelts are blemishes on the original image.)

Artillerymen, engineers and gendarmes were all armed with the 'musket of 28 inches'. In 1860 the artillery received a new rifled weapon of that length known as the M1860, with a sword-bayonet very similar to that used by the Chasseurs. This modern weapon was produced in very small numbers, but was also issued to the Carabineers of the General Staff. The mounted artillery and train had a curved light cavalry sabre similar to that of the Guard Hussars, while the Guides of the General Staff had a distinctive weapon copied from the French M1822 series. The mounted units of the Gendarmerie carried a particular sabre copied from the old French *An XI* model for dragoons.

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NCO and trooper of the *Lancieri di Aosta* in 1861, with red kepi, cords with flounders and tassels, collar, piping to the front and pointed cuffs, and side-stripes on the grey trousers. The distinctive epaulettes have silver crescents and short white fringes, and the corporal's rank chevrons are silver on red backing. In 1848, the whole Piedmontese line cavalry was equipped with the M1833/36 cavalry lance; after the formation of the *Cavalleggeri*, the line units continued to carry their lances, which were changed in 1860 for that year's new model. Of the new units of light horse, only the *Cavalleggeri di Novara* and *di Aosta* were equipped with lances, and swallow-tailed pennons in regimental colours. In 1860, the new M1860 lance was also issued to the six new regiments of lancers, such as this one.

PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: PIEDMONTESE ARMY, 1848–49

Piedmont adopted a tunic under the new dress regulations of 1843, second only to Prussia (which had adopted one the previous year). The new double-breasted tunic was accompanied in the infantry by a new model of shako, and more modern and functional personal equipment together with the introduction of percussion-lock muskets.

A1: Corporal, Grenadier Regiment of the Guard, 1848

This NCO wears the double-breasted 1843 tunic worn by the Piedmontese during the campaign of 1848. The *Granatieri di Sardegna* were the most important unit of the Guard Bde, being easily recognizable by their massive bearskin with flaming-grenade insignia. This was abolished after the campaign of 1848, together with the M1843 shako for line infantry. Unlike the Grenadiers, the Chasseurs of the Guard wore shakos. Note the shoulder rolls typical of the M1843 tunic, and the silver lace on collar and cuff, which was distinctive of the Guard Brigade.

A2: Soldier, Infantry Brigade '*Casale*', 1849

The great wartime expansion of the army in 1848–49 caused economic problems, obliging the authorities to issue a cheaper and more easily manufactured infantry uniform. It consisted of a tall kepi and a simplified single-breasted tunic, without shoulder rolls and with the cuffs replaced with cuff flaps. Officially, the new 1849 tunics should have had red as a universal facing colour for collar, cuff flaps and piping, but here collar and piping are still in the old distinctive brigade colour; on the M1843 tunic, the two regiments which made up a brigade wore the same facing and (usually) piping colours. The sequence was as follows (F = facings, i.e. collar, cuffs, shoulder rolls; P = piping, if any):

Guardie, from April 1850 *Granatieri* = F scarlet; *Savoia* = F black, P scarlet; *Piemonte & Aosta* = F & P scarlet; *Cuneo* = F crimson; *Regina & Savona* = F & P white; *Casale & Acqui* = F & P dark yellow; *Pinerolo* = F black.

The new kepi was covered with red cloth and bore the Italian national cockade. Like A1, this soldier has an M1844 infantry musket.

A3: Gunner, 1st Artillery Brigade, 1848

At the beginning of the First War of Unification, only the two batteries which made up the 1st Artillery Bde were mounted. The artillery retained the 1843 double-breasted tunic, with some modifications, in and after 1849. Note the crossed cannons on the front of the shako and the long black horsehair plume; worn only by the horse artillery, the latter would become the most characteristic uniform feature of the Italian Mounted Artillery, which inherited the traditions of the Piedmontese *Artiglieria Volante* ('flying artillery'). The distinctive colours of the artillery, black and yellow, are evident on the collar and pointed cuffs. The weapons were an M1844 artillery musket and M1833 cavalry sabre.

A4: Line infantryman, National Guard of Milan, 1848

The National Guard raised by the provisional government of Milan was dressed in green with red facings: the official headgear of the line infantry was a helmet in Piedmontese style, but this was replaced on campaign with the peaked cap shown here. By contrast, the companies of light infantry had a shorter single-breasted tunic, worn with a wide-brimmed hat plumed with black feathers (similar to the Bersaglieri *bombetta*, but showing a certain Austrian influence). His weapon is a captured Austrian M1842 musket.

B: PIEDMONTESE ARMY, 1859

In the ten years between the First and Second Wars of Unification, the Piedmontese Army underwent some radical changes. The French influence in their uniforms became more pronounced, e.g. with the adoption of the grey greatcoat as campaign dress for the line infantry. This was mainly the result of the Piedmontese participation in the Crimean War beside the French Army of the East. In general terms, Piedmontese uniforms became plainer than previously, losing any superfluous decoration. A new model of kepi was adopted as universal headgear by the dress regulations of 1850, and the old system of distinctive colours for infantry brigades was reintroduced.

B1: Trooper, Line Cavalry Regiment '*Genova Cavalleria*'

This uniform was more or less that used by the whole Piedmontese cavalry during the campaign of 1848–49, the double-breasted tunic being retained by the line units with few modifications. The handsome helmet was the main distinctive element of the line cavalry uniform; note the white 'Savoy cross' on the front, introduced in 1843. Since 1850, the Piedmontese cavalry had included new regiments of *Cavalleggeri* (Light Horse); these were dressed very similarly to the line units, but wore a kepi in the distinctive colour of each regiment (see caption, page 11). The weapons carried by this trooper are an M1833/36 lance, M1843 cavalry musketoon and M1834 cavalry sabre.

B2: Sapper, 1st Engineer Battalion

Like those of the artillery and train, the uniforms of the Piedmontese engineers remained more or less unchanged since 1848. The most noticeable feature here is this branch's wide-brimmed hat, influenced by that of the Bersaglieri, but in fact made from a line infantry kepi to which a brim and a black falling plume were added. Note also the engineers' distinctive crossed-axes badge, displayed on the hat, shoulder rolls and waistbelt buckle. The musket is the artillery's M1844.

B3: Soldier, 1st Battalion of Bersaglieri

Unlike the line infantry, the Bersaglieri retained double-breasted tunics, but these were shortened to be more practical for campaign use. Our soldier is wearing the classic wide-brimmed hat dressed with black capercaillie feathers, distinctive of the Italian light infantry. This is worn over a red fez, which was adopted as a fatigue cap by the Bersaglieri from the French Zouaves they met during the Crimean War. The green cords and flounders were another characteristic element of Bersaglieri dress, together with the white summer trousers. The dress regulations of 1850 introduced a new field uniform for the Bersaglieri, with a short dark blue single-breasted jacket with red facings; the double-breasted tunic remained in use, but only for special occasions. Cartridges for the M1856 carbine are carried in a frontal pouch.

B4: Volunteer, '*Cacciatori delle Alpi*'

This volunteer corps led by Garibaldi was organized with the help of the Piedmontese authorities, and thus received some dress and equipment from the regular army's stores. This volunteer has the grey greatcoat of the regular line infantry, but

with the green collar patches peculiar to his unit. The trousers and kepi are in the dark blue and green colours of the *Cacciatori delle Alpi*. Officers of this corps dressed in conventional style, similarly to their Piedmontese colleagues but with green facings. The musket is an old French M1822T flintlock.

C: CENTRAL ITALIAN LEAGUE, 1860

After victory in the Second War of Unification, Piedmont's next political objective was the annexation of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Duchy of Modena, Duchy of Parma and the northern 'Papal Legations'. Direct conquest was politically unacceptable to the European powers, so Prime Minister Cavour organized popular plebiscites to vote for annexation to Piedmont. Meanwhile, the armies of willing states were reorganized by Piedmontese officers to ease their imminent incorporation, and in addition to the regulars many new volunteer units were formed. In August 1859, all these forces were assembled into the so-called *Truppe della Lega* (Troops of the League), which were finally absorbed into the Piedmontese Army in March 1860. After the flight of the Grand Duke of Tuscany and of the dukes of Modena and Parma in 1859, the Tuscan Army was reformed and reorganized by its new Piedmontese commander, Gen Raffaele Cadorna. The forces of Parma disintegregated as soon as the duke fled, while those of Modena followed their duke across the River Po to join the Austrians. Piedmont therefore had to raise new units in Parma and Modena 'from scratch', as well as in the 'Papal Legations' (which were willingly annexed). The Tuscan Army kept its uniforms, adopting Piedmontese dress only for the newly constituted National Guard, but the old cockade was replaced with the new Italian pattern and officers adopted the Piedmontese light blue sash. The new volunteer units formed in Parma, Modena and the 'Papal Legations' were grouped in the so-called 'Army of Emilia'. Their uniforms were quite varied, though often influenced by Piedmontese models. These units included the *Ussari di Piacenza* (see C1) and the *Bersaglieri di Vignola* (see C3).

Officer of the *Ussari di Piacenza*, 1861; for colours, compare with Plate C1. The Piacenza Hussars were one of the lesser-known corps, being the only hussar unit ever formed as part of the unified Italian Army (note crowned 'VE' cypher on sabretache and saddle cloth). During the Second War of Unification, many Hungarian patriots came to Piedmont to fight against the Austrians. After the Italian victory, 20 of them led by Count Gregorio Bethlen went to Parma to act as cadres for the formation of a new unit of volunteer hussars. This was created on 28 September 1859 as part of the forces of the Central Italian League and, on 15 March 1860, was one of four new cavalry units added to the Piedmontese Army after annexation.

C1: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment '*Ussari di Piacenza*'

This light cavalry unit was one of the volunteer corps which were formed in the territories of Modena and Parma, but it had a very individual history. During the war of 1859, many Hungarian patriots came to Piedmont in oder to fight against the Austrians, and subsequently 20 of them went to Parma and formed the cadre for a new volunteer unit of hussars. The new regiment, created on 28 September 1859, inherited the traditions and handsome uniforms of the Hungarian hussars. On 15 March 1860 the *Ussari di Piacenza* were absorbed into the Piedmontese Army along with the other troops of the Central Italian League. The uniform consisted of a red kepi, green dolman and red pelisse. The sabretache is of red leather; the sabre is the cavalry M1860.

C2: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment '*Guide*'

The Guides of the Piedmontese Army, formed in 1848, were initially dressed quite similarly to the line cavalry. Reformed in 1859, they received a new dress similar to that of the light horse. In 1860, the Guides were expanded into a regiment, adopting this new light blue uniform in hussar style with a bearskin busby. The sabretache is in the same colour as the uniform, with the 'Savoy cross' and crown in white; the sabre is the artillery's M1833.

C3: Corporal, *Battaglione Bersaglieri di Vignola*

This battalion of Bersaglieri was formed in Modena in 1859 with volunteers from Emilia and Trentino under Piedmontese officers; in 1860, it was absorbed into the Piedmontese Army as the regular 23rd Bn of Bersaglieri. Its organization and uniform had been almost the same as those of the Piedmontese Bersaglieri, but with light blue facing colour instead of red. The Bersaglieri of Vignola also had a separate field uniform with a short, single-breasted, dark blue jacket with light blue collar patches, pointed cuffs and piping. The weapon is the M1856 Piedmontese light infantry carbine.

C4: Soldier, National Guard of Emilia

Before annexation to Piedmont, the territories of the Central Italian League also formed a significant National Guard system. The new National Guard units were usually dressed, as in this case, in the M1859 uniform issued to the Piedmontese National Guard: a blouse of deep blue and

white vertical 'ticking', closely resembling contemporary everyday working dress, but distinguished by red shoulder straps, collar patches, pocket flaps and piping.

D: ITALIAN ARMY, 1866

During the process of forming the new national army the uniform traditions of the other pre-unification states were abandoned, with the result that it went into the war of 1866 dressed according to the Piedmontese regulations of 1860. These made only minor modifications to the previous uniforms, such as the abolition of the old distinctive colours for each infantry brigade, now replaced with black and red as universal facing colours for the line infantry. A dark blue French-style *bonnet de police* with red piping and tassel was also introduced, which soon became very popular for use on campaign. Cavalry uniforms remained more or less the same, with the new regiments of lancers adopting almost the same dress as the Cavalleggeri.

D1: Officer, 4th Line Infantry Regiment

This regiment, together with the 3rd Line Infantry, formed the Brigade 'Piemonte'. Our officer wears the practical campaign uniform used during the Third War of Unification and in the long years of suppressing insurgency in southern Italy; it has no decorative features, and the kepi and its pompon are covered with protective oilskin. The light blue sash was the most distinctive element of Piedmontese officers' uniforms: light blue was the colour of the Royal House, and the sash was a sign of loyalty to the Crown. This tradition, which can be dated to as early as 1572, is still retained today by the Italian military forces.

D2: Infantryman, Hungarian Auxiliary Legion

The Hungarian Auxiliary Legion had uniforms quite similar to those used by the revolutionary Honvéd of 1848–49, which were in turn copied by the Austro-Hungarians when the new Honvéd was established in 1867. The line infantry of the Legion were dressed as shown, while the light infantry had the Bersaglieri hat and this *atilla* jacket in grey with green frogging. The hussars had a light blue dolman and pelisse with red frogging, worn with grey trousers; headgear was a black bearskin busby (similar to that of the Guides), a kepi, or a red 'bag' beret with a peak. The artillery had a kepi and a brown *atilla* with red frogging, worn with grey trousers. On parade, all units wore a shako bearing a plate with the Hungarian coat-of-arms.

D3: Trooper, Mounted Guides of the National Volunteer Corps

Following the great successes of Garibaldi's Red Shirts in 1860, on 6 May 1866 the Italian high command decided to organize his volunteers on a regular basis. For this reason a new category of troops was created, in addition to the regulars and National Guard: the *Corpo Volontari Nazionali*. This numbered around 38,000 men, and included units of infantry, cavalry and engineers. The mounted branch consisted of just two squadrons of Mounted Guides, with this black-trimmed grey uniform and red *bonnet de police*.

D4: Infantryman, National Volunteer Corps

The infantry of the National Volunteer Corps consisted of 10 regiments, all equipped as light infantry. Their uniform was basically a regularized version of that worn by the Red Shirts in 1860: red kepi with green bottom band and piping, red blouse with green piping, and red-striped grey trousers. Their weapons were usually French or Piedmontese percussion smoothbores (in this case a French M1822T), though by the end of the 1866 campaign the light companies of each regiment had received a number of rifled Pattern 1853 Enfields.

E: COUNTER-INSURGENCY, 1860s

Throughout the 1860s, the insurgent 'Brigandage' in the south remained a serious threat to the stability of the new Kingdom of Italy. The guerrilla activity of the insurgents in the southern regions tested the young Italian military forces to the limit, showing up the initial weaknesses of the unified military apparatus. Atrocities were committed by both sides, and for a short period the situation seemed likely to degenerate into full-scale civil war, but in the end the state authorities were successful in suppressing the insurgency.

E1: Lieutenant, Mounted Bersaglieri, 1867

During the dispersed fighting against the insurgents in the harsh terrain of the southern Appennine mountains, the Italian forces might present a fairly irregular appearance. Officers made wide use of privately purchased and non-regulation campaign uniforms such as this, while soldiers and National Guardsmen frequently wore their barracks or fatigue dress in simplified versions. During summer, entirely white linen uniforms became very popular, together with white kepi covers and/or neck curtains. This officer, commanding one of the mounted platoons of Bersaglieri formed for counter-guerrilla operations, wears a perfect example of non-regulation dress; officers of Bersaglieri were apparently noted for preferring locally made clothing influenced by southern traditions. The most common features included coloured lapels and the profusion of buttons, or echoes of contemporary French officers' *petite tenue de l'Armée d'Afrique.* Our officer's choice of weapons also reflects the conditions of a counter-guerrilla campaign: an M1865 Spencer magazine carbine, an M1860 Colt Army revolver (obscured here), and also an M1850 Colombo pistol-sword – a peculiar weapon bought by many officers.

E2: Lance-corporal, Carabinieri, 1866

Unlike other Italian forces, the Carabinieri tended to maintain a much more regular appearance in the field, respecting the official dress regulations. This lance-corporal wears the usual dark blue uniform of the Carabinieri with silver braid on the collar. The *lucerna*, the traditional bicorn hat of this service, has a protective oilskin cover; this, and the rolled-up trousers, are the only concessions to campaign conditions. The carbine is the M1860 for Carabinieri.

E3: Customs Guard, 1867

This national corps was formed on 13 November 1862 by assembling those of the various pre-unification states, and – like the Carabinieri – during operations against the guerillas it acted as an auxiliary military force. This man wears the M1859 grey campaign uniform of the Piedmontese Customs Guards, with green kepi, yellow trouser stripe, and personal equipment typically reduced to a minimum for easy mobility. The lack of modern communications and logistics made the supply of replacement uniforms practically impossible, and soldiers were sometimes obliged to adopt civilian expedients. In 1881 the title and functions of this corps would be changed, and it became the *Guardia di Finanza* (Financial Guard).

E4: Calabrian brigand, 1863
Despite being usually ex-soldiers of the Neapolitan Army, the insurgents who survived by brigandage wore the traditional clothing of their territories. This fighter is wearing the usual costume of a Calabrian man, easily recognizable by the plumed and ribboned hat – though this had also been popular among other volunteers during the previous decades. The weaponry of the guerrillas included anything from agricultural tools to modern rifles taken from dead enemies; this man carries a 'trombone', a popular kind of shotgun, slung by a butt-strap. His sash is passed through jacket loops.

F: NEAPOLITAN & SICILIAN ARMIES, 1848
During the years 1830–38, and particularly after the dress regulations of 1835, the Neapolitan Army adopted new uniforms in the French style which were to remain in use until the fall of the kingdom. The cut of this new uniform was commonly known as 'Luigi Filippo', from its close resemblance to those worn by the French Army of King Louis-Philippe. Fashionable in the 1830s, they gradually came to look outdated as time progressed, since no new regulations were introduced during the following decades. Most obviously, they retained the tailed coatee while other European armies progressively adopted the tunic. In 1859 there was an attempt to introduce a tunic, but it was only issued to the most recently formed battalions of Chasseurs and to the Tirailleurs of the Guard.

F1: Soldier, 3rd Swiss Infantry Regiment
Unlike the rest of the line infantry, the Swiss regiments were dressed in red coatees and blue-grey trousers (red being the traditional colour of Swiss mercenary units in French service). In addition, Swiss uniforms had distinctive yellow braid on the collar. The Swiss artillerymen attached to each infantry regiment were dressed like Neapolitan gunners, in dark blue with red facings. The new foreign battalions of *Carabinieri Leggeri*, formed after the disbandment of the Swiss units, were dressed in grey (1st & 2nd Bns) or dark green (3rd Bn). The main weapon is a line infantry 'musket of 40 inches'.

F2: Soldier, Naval Infantry Regiment '*Real Marina*'
This elite Royal Guard unit was recruited in the coastal areas of the kingdom, and in wartime they specialized in landing operations. The *Real Marina* was the only infantry unit of the Neapolitan Army to have a double-breasted coatee, which remained in use until the 1850s. A distinctive unit badge incorporating an anchor, was worn on the shako, and the motif was repeated on the blanket valise of the backpack.

F3: Soldier, line infantry, secessionist Kingdom of Sicily
The regular armed forces of the secessionist Kingdom of Sicily, organized in February 1848, were dressed quite similarly to the Piedmontese Army. The parade uniform of the infantry is shown here: dark blue tunic and grey trousers, with red collar, pointed cuffs, epaulettes and piping, shako pompon and trouser stripe. Instead of the shako, senior officers had a cocked hat and junior officers wore a kepi. The shako plate and the buckle of the waistbelt featured the *Trinacria* – the traditional symbol of Sicily, resembling the triangular shape of the island. On campaign, Sicilian infantrymen wore much simpler dress including a grey blouse with red collar, cuffs and pocket flaps on the chest, and a soft grey beret with a red bottom band.

F4: Officer, line cavalry, secessionist Kingdom of Sicily
The Sicilian cavalry had a distinctive uniform with a Prussian-style spiked helmet and red trousers; again, the *Trinacria* was displayed on the front of the helmet, the epaulettes and the belt buckle. Artillerymen, by contrast, were uniformed much as the Piedmontese artillery, but with single-breasted tunics and yellow facing colour.

G: NEAPOLITAN ARMY, 1860
The universal uniform of the Neapolitan line infantry consisted of a dark blue single-breasted coatee and red trousers, while the light infantry battalions (*cacciatori*, chasseurs) had a shorter dark green coatee and grey trousers. Belt equipment was white for the line and (officially) black for the light infantry. The infantry of the Guard were dressed similarly but with additional white braid stripes across the front of the coatee. The Tirailleurs of the Guard, formed in 1856, were uniformed like the line Chasseurs but with dark green trousers; during summertime, all units used white trousers. Officers were distinguished by gorgets and by a *fleurs-de-lis* badge on their epaulettes. The foot artillery and engineers had dark blue coatees and trousers with red facings, similar in all respects to those of the infantry; for the horse artillery and train uniform, see illustration on page 37.

G1: Second sergeant, Foot Royal Bodyguards
This small corps was dressed very similarly to the two Grenadier regiments of the Guard, with the white braid on the front of the coatee which distinguished Guard infantry (see page 20). On parade, the Foot Royal Bodyguards and Grenadiers of the Guard wore this massive bearskin, while the Chasseurs of the Guard had the same M1845 shako as the line infantry. While the Grenadiers of the Guard had red winter trousers, the Foot Royal Bodyguards wore white all year round.

G2: Voltigeur, Line Infantry Regiment '*Carabinieri Reali*'
As part of the Neapolitan line infantry the Royal Carabineers wore the same uniform as other fusilier units; its only peculiarity, to show the unit's provenance in the Royal Gendarmerie, was the white braid on the collar. This man is from the Voltigeur company, as shown by the green pompon on the shako and the fringes of the epaulettes, and the brass chasseur bugle-horn on the crossbelt. The weapon is a line infantry 'musket of 38 inches'.

G3: Soldier, 5th Chasseur Battalion
This illlustrates the campaign uniform worn during the war of 1860 against Garibaldi; the French-style double-breasted greatcoat was dark blue for the line infantry and grey for the chasseurs. Note the yellow collar patches and the bugle-horn on the shako cover and belt buckle. The shako and pompon are covered with oilskin; on campaign, this headgear was frequently replaced with a fatigue cap similar to the French *bonnet de police*, introduced during the 1850s. The 'carbine of 32 inches' for cacciatori had a recurved '*yataghan*' bayonet.

G4: Trooper, Cavalry Regiment '*Cacciatori a cavallo*'
The Regiment of Mounted Chasseurs was part of the line cavalry, but as an elite unit it had many distinctive features; its special equipment and weaponry included the short-barrelled 'rifle of 38 inches' that was specifically designed for the regiment. The sabre was a copy of the French M1822 for line cavalry. The parade headgear was a shako with yellow top band and black falling plume; on campaign they wore this black cap with a yellow tassel.

H: NEAPOLITAN CAVALRY, 1860

Neapolitan cavalry uniforms reflected the variety of troop types: Hussars of the Royal Guard, Guides of the General Staff, Dragoons, Lancers, Mounted Carabineers and Mounted Chasseurs. In general terms, the dress of Neapolitan mounted units was very similar to that of the contemporary French cavalry, albeit with some peculiarities. The *Reggimento Carabinieri a cavallo* and the Dragoons were dressed quite similarly, in dark blue single-breasted coatees with short tails, red piping and epaulettes, and red trousers with single blue stripes. Like the foot Carabineers, the *Carabinieri a cavallo* had the additional white braid of the Gendarmerie on the collar. Both units wore a neoclassical helmet with red plume, but in two different models: that of the Mounted Carabineers was very similar to that used by contemporary French Dragoons, while that of Dragoons had a comb with a black fur 'caterpillar' crest. The mounted Gendarmerie were dressed like the Dragoons, but with a bicorn instead of the helmet, and dark blue trousers with a red side-stripe. Uniquely, the squadron serving in the capital wore a black bearskin with white plume (like that of the Guard Grenadiers) and white trousers.

H1: Trooper, Guides of the General Staff

This small corps wore an elegant dark blue and red hussar uniform with a bearskin busby. The foot company of Carabineers of the General Staff, instead, had the same uniform as the line infantry but with additional red decoration on the collar; on parade this was worn with a bearskin like that of the Guard Grenadiers, and on campaign with a tall red kepi having a dark blue bottom band. The foot Gendarmerie had dark blue coatees and trousers with red facings exactly like the artillery and engineers; these were worn with a Grenadier bearskin by the units serving in the capital, and with a normal shako by all others.

H2: Trooper, Sicilian Guards of Honour

The aristocratic Guards of Honour wore one of the most handsome parade uniforms of the Neapolitan Army. This was produced in two different versions, depending on the provenance of the individual squadrons: those coming from Sicily (known as '*Ultra Faro*') were dressed like this figure, while those coming from the mainland ('*Citra Faro*') had the same uniform but with crimson facing colour instead of light blue.

H3: Trooper, 1st Regiment of Royal Guard Hussars

The cavalry of the Royal Guard consisted of two regiments of hussars, which were armed with old British M1796 light cavalry sabres and a short cavalry 'musketoon of 22 inches'. The general appearance of this parade dress is obviously French, but it retains certain hints of the Napoleonic-era British Light Dragoons. On campaign a much simpler version of this uniform was worn: red shako with white top band and pompon, dark blue jacket with red pointed cuffs and white piping to collar and cuffs, and white trousers.

H4: Trooper, 1st Regiment of Lancers

The influence of the Napoleonic Imperial Army is clearly visible in the *czapska*, the *kurtka* and the main colours. Weapons were a sabre copied from the French M1822 for light cavalry and the Neapolitan M1843 lance; in addition, flintlock pistols were frequently carried. Lancers were considered the best soldiers in the Neapolitan line cavalry, and took part in various actions during the 1860 campaign.

Sapper of the Neapolitan 8th Chasseur Bn, 1860. All the Neapolitan foot units had bearded sappers in imitation of the French style, who paraded with felling axes. Colours: black bearskin. Dark green coatee with yellow piping to the front, and yellow epaulettes with light green crescents and fringes. Hidden by the beard is the yellow collar with dark green patches – see page 24, top left. Gold embroidered badge on both sleeves, incorporating crown, crossed axes and picks, and bugle-horn with battalion number. Note the brass bugle-horn badge-pin for the pricker and brush chains on the right breast. Black leather apron, black belt with bugle-horn on brass buckle; white gloves with black gauntlet cuffs; grey trousers.

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Dedication

To my parents Maria Rosaria and Benedetto, for their love and support during a decisive year of my life.
This book is also dedicated to the memory of all the brave soldiers and volunteers who lost their young lives to make Italy a great and unified nation.

Author's Note

For the historian of European uniforms, the crucial period of the *Risorgimento* offers several distinct armies dressed in a wide variety of styles echoing foreign and local traditions. Many of these are illustrated here in colour for the first time outside Italy.

This is the first of two connected Men-at-Arms titles devoted to the armies which fought in the three Italian Wars of Unification; the second volume will cover the military forces of the Papal States, the minor regional armies and volunteer units generally. The chronology naturally cannot follow this geographical and organizational division, so for reasons of space the major events of the First War of Unification, 1848–49, are listed in this book, and a chronology from 1850 onwards will be found in the forthcoming second volume.

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